



Friends of Wehr Nature Center Native Plant Sale

FAQs 2022

Q: What is the format for the plant sale this year?

A: With COVID becoming endemic and many people being vaccinated, the native plant sale can return to being in-person. Pre-ordering was very popular and will continue as more species can be offered than we would have space for during the in-person sale. Hopefully this provides the best of both worlds.

Q: When do I pay for and pick up the pre-ordered plants?

A: Pre-ordered plants will be available for pick up on the days of the in-person sale only and can be paid for at that time with cash, check, or credit card.

Q: Why are you only having one weekend for the sale?

A: The simplest answer is that we moved the sale to early June as both early-May ephemerals are available and summer plants should be up after their winter dormancy at this time so there is no need for two different weekends.

Q: What does “Specialty Plant” mean, and why do they cost more?

A: “Specialty” is a term we chose to describe plants that are more challenging to germinate and keep alive during their early life. Growers typically limit the supply of these plants that require more effort to grow, and plants that are cared for longer naturally cost more. They grow better in larger pot sizes, and you will have better success with these older plants.

Q: Why did costs increase again this year?

A: Increased costs are everywhere, and for our plants, it is primarily due to an increase in labor wages and higher prices for energy use for growing and trucking.

Q: What are plugs?

A: Plugs are young plants, often only a year old. Perennials have to be several years old before they flower, so plugs will not produce flowers for several years. Plugs often do better in the long run because they do not have the added disruption of transplanting just before or during flowering.

Plugs come in trays of 16 plants rather than individual pots. You cannot split plug trays.

Q: What plants are new this year?

A: We are able to offer a couple of plants that we have not offered the past few years. This year we are pushing native gardeners to consider adding grasses and/or sedges to their native gardens. Pollinators and birds need these plants, too, and in addition to adding diversity and interest, they provide support for the flowering plants.

Bottle Gentian (*Gentianna andrewsii*) offered as a gallon pot only

Large-flowered Penstemon-Beardtongue (*Penstemon grandifloras*)

Purple Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum dasycarpum*)

Lead Plant (*Amorpha canescens*) available in a larger pot

Penstemon digitalis-Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)

Stout Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium augustifolium*)

Yellow Bellwort-Merrybells (*Uvularia grandiflora*) available in a larger pot

Hoary vervain (*Verbena stricta*)

Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) available in a quart pot

Prairie Sedge (*Carex bicknellii*) available in a quart pot

Morning Star Sedge (*Carex grayi*) available in a quart pot