



## STEP 3

### NATIVE PLANTS

# Seed vs. Plug

The bulk of native perennial wildflowers and grasses/sedges are available as plugs (seedlings) or seeds.

There are a number of benefits of starting your natural yard with native plant plugs rather than seed:

1. Many native perennial seeds have a low germination rate and/or require very specific conditions to initiate germination. Some may lay in wait for several years before starting to grow.
2. Plugs (seedling plants) have a head start on seeds so your new planting bed will fill in quicker than by seed, by a minimum of 2 years.
3. You can identify your planted plugs easier from weeds when they are young because you know where they were planted (it can be especially useful to add small markers to your yard when first establishing new plants) and already know what they look like as young plants.

When you sow seeds, it can be very difficult to distinguish between weed seedlings emerging in the same area.

The more experienced gardener may wish to explore growing native perennials from seed. The Edmonton Native Plant Society lists general [guidelines](#).

