SAND

GERMINATION CODES AND INSTRUCTIONS

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PRAIRIE MOON NURSERY®

The seeds of many native plants have built-in dormancy mechanisms that protect them from germinating before killing frosts or in times of drought. In the wild, seeds will lie dormant until the proper conditions for growth occur. But in cultivation, the successful gardener must become familiar with several simple pre-sowing seed treatment methods which will unlock the dormancy mechanism and stimulate quicker, more consistent germination.

Until you are ready to plant or apply pre-sowing treatment, seed should be stored in an open container in a cool, dry place, or in a sealed (airtight) container under refrigeration (33–40°F). Sow seeds shallowly and keep seedlings carefully weeded. Periodic watering is helpful to establish seedlings. If seed does not germinate the first year, don't give up; germination may occur the second year or even later.

STEP-BY-STEP TUTORIAL FOR GERM CODE C: *ARTIFICIAL STRATIFICATION USING SAND SUITED FOR ROW-TYPE PLANTING*

1

PLACE STRATIFICATION SAND INTO A BOWL. We use a 1/3 cup fine stratification sand to 1/8 oz seed ratio (slightly more or less depending on seed size).

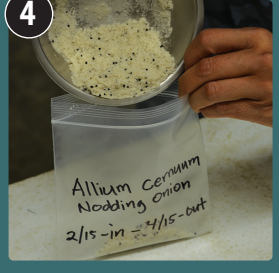
2

ADD WATER
1 to 2 teaspoons is all we needed for 1/3 cup of sand. Mix only enough water to allow medium to form into a ball.

3

ADD YOUR SEED TO THE STRATIFICATION SAND AND MIX TOGETHER. Our package label will indicate the suggested number of days for artificial stratification. i.e. C (60) = 60 days of cold, moist conditions needed.

4



REFRIGERATE THE SEED MIXTURE IN A SEALED PLASTIC BAG MARKED WITH START AND FINISH DATES. Check periodically so that the mixture does not dry out. If premature sprouting occurs, plant immediately.

5

ONCE COLD, MOIST STRATIFICATION IS COMPLETE, SOW THE SEED INTO ROWS When the threat of below-freezing temps has past. Keep rows well weeded and thinned.