



Native Plant Germination

1: Germination



- Seeds begin absorbing water (*imbibition*), activating enzymes that trigger sprouting.
- The root (*radicle*) emerges first to anchor the plant.
- A small shoot (*hypocotyl*) follows, pushing upward.
- **1-8 weeks** after planting

2: Seedling Establishment



- The first true leaves develop, allowing photosynthesis to begin.
- Roots expand, seeking nutrients and water.
- **4-12 weeks** after planting

3: Early Growth



- Slow above-ground growth is normal; native plants often prioritize root system development.
- Some species, like prairie grasses, may take up to a year before noticeable above-ground growth occurs.
- **3-12 months** after planting

4: Maturation



- Flowering and seed production begin, completing the plant's life cycle.
- Perennial plants continue to grow and spread, becoming more robust each season.
- **1-3+ years** after planting