

Canada Wild Rye

Canada Wild Rye is a cool season grass that is a great native cover crop. It is fast growing and pollinator friendly. It bears edible rye grains that can be harvested or left for birds and small mammals. It grows best in full sun to part shade and in average soils.

Type: Perennial

Height: 1.5 m (5')

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Difficulty: Easy



Growing

Cold stratification is the process of breaking seed dormancy through chilling. To artificially cold stratify seeds, place them on a damp paper towel in a sealed bag in the refrigerator for 4-8 weeks before sowing directly outside. To provide natural stratification, plant seeds outside in the fall.

Sow seeds shallowly at only 5mm (1/4") deep, directly outside. Seeds should sprout in 1-2 weeks. Keep seedlings moist but not soaking wet. Space seedlings to about 15cm (6") apart.

Saving

Seeds can be harvested in fall when seed heads begin to nod, turn brown, dry, and separate from the stem. Strip seeds from the stems by hand, placing them in a paper bag to dry for a month. Then, put the seeds into a dated and labelled envelope and return to Brock!