

# FALL PLANTING GUIDE

## Seeds

- Native seeds are best planted in the fall when the outside temperatures are cooler. The cold weather switches off the dormancy of native seeds and the winter rain gives the plant the water it needs to develop healthy root systems before the next dry season.
- You can also plant native seeds in the spring, we recommend you cold stratify your seeds by placing them in the refrigerator for two weeks prior to planting. If you choose to plant your seeds in the spring, plan to provide additional irrigation through the dry season.
- Seed mixes do best when planted directly in the ground.
- Single-packet seeds can be planted directly in the ground or started in containers and transplanted later in the season.
- Plan to sow your seeds on bare, weed-free ground following site preparation to reduce as many weeds and weed seed as possible.
- When planting native seed, it is recommended to hand scatter it directly onto the soil surface. There is no need to bury the seed or cover it with soil, rather it can be lightly raked into the soil after planting.
- Leave your seeds to overwinter and come back for beautiful blooms in the spring!

## Bulbs

- The best time to plant native bulbs is in the fall after the first rains begin. In our area, this is usually late October.
- Your bulbs will be packed in dry or damp sawdust. Keep them dry or damp, according to how they were packed, and store them in a cool, dark place. Bulbs should be planted within a few days of receiving.
- Choose the best location for your bulb based on its ideal growing conditions. Once you have found the best location to plant, loosen the soil 1-2 inches (unless noted differently below)
  - Delphinium: just under the soil surface
  - Large Camas: 3-4 inches
  - Columbia Lily: 5-6 inches
- To plant, dig a hole and water it, place the bulb in the hole, and backfill with soil. press the soil firmly around the bulb. Water again when finished to eliminate air pockets and settle the soil around the bulb.
- Keep the bulbs watered well until regular fall rains start.
- Leave your bulbs to overwinter and come back in spring to see beautiful blooms! Keep in mind that depending on the size of your bulbs, they may not bloom the first spring.

**Questions? Contact Kiana Sinner, [ksinner@thurstoncd.com](mailto:ksinner@thurstoncd.com)**