

Field Scout & Native Planting Checklist

Section A: Field Identification (Check before you snap a photo)

- **Manitoba Crocus:** Are there silvery thermal hairs on the stem? (If no, it might be an anemone).
- **Saskatchewan Lily:** Is the flower cup-shaped and upright? (Check for Western Tiger Swallowtails nearby).
- **Alberta Rose:** Does it have exactly 5 petals and needle-like prickles? (If it's "bushy" with many petals, it's invasive).
- **BC Dogwood:** Are the "petals" actually 4–7 large white bracts? Is the canopy airy (check for Anthracnose spots)?

Section B: Legal Compliance (Know before you touch)

- **Status:** Am I on Crown Land, a Provincial Park, or Private Property?
- **Permit:** If collecting seeds for science, do I have my **2026 GPS-tracked E-Permit** active?
- **Policy:** Remember: *Take only photos, leave only footprints.* (Strict \$500 fines apply in BC/SK).

Section C: Native Gardening Protocol (The 7-Step Success)

1. **Soil Test:** Target pH 6.0–7.5 (depending on species).
2. **Drainage:** Mix 30% coarse sand for Prairie species.
3. **Sourcing:** Verified Nursery Certification (No wild-digging).
4. **Stratification:** 60 days in cold/damp storage (2°C–4°C).
5. **Sowing:** Surface sow in late May (Sunlight required).
6. **Hydration:** Keep top 2cm moist for the first 21 days.
7. **Controlled Neglect:** Stop supplemental watering after Year 1.

Section D: Companion Planting & Ecosystem Synergy

Use these pairings to mimic natural Western Canadian habitats and provide structural or biological support.

Provincial Emblem	Natural Companion Plants	Why They Work Together
Prairie Crocus	Prairie Smoke (<i>Geum triflorum</i>), Blue Grama Grass	These bloom simultaneously; the grass provides a windbreak for the delicate early stalks.
Western Red Lily	Blue Grama, Yarrow (<i>Achillea</i>), Low Shrubbery	Lilies love "cool feet and warm heads." Companions provide ground shade while allowing the lily to rise toward the sun.
Wild Rose	Wild Bergamot (<i>Monarda</i>), Goldenrod, Asters	These attract a wider variety of pollinators and predatory insects that help naturally control rose aphids.
Pacific Dogwood	Western Red Cedar, Sword Ferns, Salal	These mimic the layered canopy of the temperate rainforest, maintaining the high humidity the Dogwood requires.