


**Plant Propagation Protocol for *Triphysaria Pusilla***

ESRM 412 – Native Plant Production

URL: [https://courses.washington.edu/esrm412/protocols/2025/\[TRPU16.pdf\]](https://courses.washington.edu/esrm412/protocols/2025/[TRPU16.pdf])

| <b>TAXONOMY</b>                            |  |
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| <b>Plant Family</b>                        |  |
| Scientific Name                            | <i>Triphysaria</i>   |
| Common Name                                | Owl's Clover   |
| <b>Species Scientific Name</b>             |  |
| Scientific Name                            | <i>Triphysaria Pusilla</i>   |
| Varieties                                  | None   |
| Sub-species                                | None   |
| Cultivar                                   | None   |
| Common Synonym(s)                          | <i>Orthocarpus pusillus</i> Benth, <i>Orthocarpus pusillus</i> Benth. var. <i>densiuscuus</i> (Gandog.) D.D. Keck (USDA. (n.d.))                                       |
| Common Name(s)                             | Dwarf Owl's-Clover   |
| Species Code (as per USDA Plants database) | TRPU16   |
| <b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b>                 |  |
| Geographical range                         | <p>North America:</p>  <p>USDA. (n.d.)</p>   |
| Ecological distribution                    | Occurring west of the Cascades crest and east in the Columbia River Gorge in Washington; southwestern British Columbia to California. (Knoke, D., & Giblin, D. (n.d.)) |
| Climate and elevation range                | Elevation: 0 to 3775 ft<br>Climate: 16 to 57 ° F (Calflora. (n.d.))  |
| Local habitat and abundance                | <i>Triphysaria pusilla</i> grows in seasonally wet habitats like vernal pools and grasslands, mainly in California and Oregon. (PictureThis. (n.d.))                   |

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| Plant strategy type / successional stage                        | <i>Triphysaria pusilla</i> is an early-successional <b>weedy/colonizer</b> and <b>stress-tolerator</b> , adapted to disturbed, seasonally wet habitats with low competition. (Chuang, T. I., & Heckard, L. R. (1991)); (Turner, M. (n.d.))  |
| Plant characteristics   | <i>Triphysaria pusilla</i> is an annual herb producing a hairy brownish or purple-colored, multibranched stem up to about 20 centimeters in maximum height. Its greenish, red or purple leaves are up to 3 centimeters long and are divided into a few narrow, pointed lobes. (PictureThis. (n.d.)) |
| <b>Propagation Goal</b>   |   |
| Propagation Goal  | Plants  |
| Propagation Method  | Seeds   |
| Product Type  | Plug  |
| Stock Type  | Small container-grown plug (e.g., 2-inch or similar size)   |
| Time to Grow  | 4 to 11 months (Calflora. (n.d.))   |
| Target Specifications   | Target plants should be 2–15 cm tall, healthy, and well-rooted in plugs, ideally co-grown with a compatible host species.(PictureThis. (n.d.)) ;(Wetherwax, M. (n.d.))  |
| Propagule Collection Instructions                               | Collect seed heads in late spring when capsules dry and brown. Clip into paper bags, dry, then clean and store seeds in a cool, dry place. (PictureThis. (n.d.))  |
| Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics                  | Seeds are very small, with high density (estimated over 1 million seeds per pound). Clean by gently threshing and sieving. Seed longevity is short to moderate; store in cool, dry conditions and use within 1–2 years for best viability. (University of British Columbia. (n.d.))                 |
| Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments                               | Wait until the seed pods of your existing <i>Triphysaria pusilla</i> plants have fully matured and turned brown. Carefully collect the pods and store them in a cool, dry place. (PropagateOne (n.d.))  |
| Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops | Sow the seeds in a seed tray filled with a well-draining seed starting mix. Lightly press the seeds into the soil, but don't bury them too deep. Keep the soil evenly moist but not soggy. Seed trays can be placed in a sunny location or under grow lights. (PropagateOne (n.d.))                 |

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| Establishment Phase Details                               | After sowing, keep soil consistently moist but not waterlogged. Provide full sun and cool temperatures. Germination typically occurs within 2–4 weeks. Ensure the host plant establishes early to support seedling growth. (Chuang, T. I., & Heckard, L. R. (1991))  |
| Length of Establishment Phase                             | <b>Early spring, Mid spring</b> (PictureThis. (n.d.))  |
| Active Growth Phase                                       | From germination until flowering and seed set, keep plants well-watered with consistent moisture and full sun exposure. Maintain the presence of a compatible host plant to support hemiparasitic growth. Monitor for pests and avoid over-fertilizing, as this species is adapted to low-nutrient soils. (PropagateOne (n.d.)); (Rankel, K. (2025, January 10)) |
| Length of Active Growth Phase                             | 9 to 11 months (Calflora. (n.d.))  |
| Hardening Phase   | Minimal to none  |
| Length of Hardening Phase                                 | None to very short.  |
| Harvesting, Storage and Shipping                          | Once seedlings emerge, gently thin them out to give each plant enough room to grow. As the seedlings develop their first true leaves, they can be transplanted into individual pots or directly into the garden. (PropagateOne (n.d.))   |
| Length of Storage   | Up to 1 week under optimal conditions (Chuang, T. I., & Heckard, L. R. (1991))   |
| Guidelines for Outplanting / Performance on Typical Sites | Outplant plugs in early spring to sunny, moist sites with host plants present. Expect 50–70% survival, 2–10 cm height, and flowering within 6–8 weeks. (PictureThis. (n.d.)); (Knoke, D., & Giblin, D. (n.d.))   |
| Other Comments  | N/A  |
| <b>INFORMATION SOURCES</b>                                |  |
| References  | Find below   |
| Other Sources Consulted                                   | N/A  |
| Protocol Author (First and last name)                     | Ashley Martinez  |
| Date Protocol Created or Updated (MM/DD/YY)               | 5/22/2025  |

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