


Plant Propagation Protocol for *Allium unifolium*

ESRM 412 – Native Plant Production

URL: <https://courses.washington.edu/esrm412/protocols/2026/ALUN>

TAXONOMY	
Plant Family	
Scientific Name	<i>Liliaceae</i> Juss
Common Name	Lily family
Species Scientific Name	
Scientific Name	<i>Allium unifolium</i> Kellogg
Varieties	NA
Sub-species	NA
Cultivar	Available in native plant nurseries in native range.
Common Synonym(s)	Wild onion
Common Name(s)	One leaf onion
Species Code (as per USDA Plants database)	ALUN
GENERAL INFORMATION	
Geographical range	 <p>Oregon and California OR counties: Yamhill, Polk (USDA NRCS, n.d.-a)</p>
Ecological distribution	Moist clay, closed-cone pine forests, mixed evergreen, along streams, chaparral at lower elevation. (USDA NRCS, n.d.-b)
Climate and elevation range	<1100 meters (Flora of North America, n.d.)
Local habitat and abundance	Sunny, partial shade. Moist soil (clay soil). (USDA NRCS, n.d.-b)
Plant strategy type / successional stage	Perennial. Highly resistant to critters like deer. (USDA NRCS, n.d.-b)
Plant characteristics	Forb/herb (USDA NRCS, n.d.-a) Flowers May-June (Flora of North America, n.d.)
PROPAGATION DETAILS: FROM SEED	

Ecotype	No experimentally derived protocols could be found. Protocol is a compilation of seed propagation guidelines. Coastal Northern California is most common. (USDA NRCS, n.d.-a)
Propagation Goal	Seedlings and bulbs
Propagation Method	Seed
Product Type	Container & seeds
Stock Type	Plant
Time to Grow	2 years (USDA NRCS, n.d.-b)
Target Specifications	Flowering size plant (~15 cm tall)
Propagule Collection Instructions.	It's best to collect seeds in the Fall. (Lynn, 2022). It must be before seed pods open and after the flowers begin to brown. Seeds are ripe if they are removed from the stalk by a gentle tug. (American Horticultural Society & Toogood, 1999)
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	Can be stored at 41 F in a paper bag or directly germinated (American Horticultural Society & Toogood, 1999).
Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	Spread out on paper for 10-14 days to dry out seeds. Put seeds into basin of water. Discard all that float as they are unviable. Dry seeds again. (Lynn, 2022).
Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops	Use a well draining media. Small pots. Full sun to partial sun is necessary. Sprinkle layer of seeds over media and sprinkle thin layer of media over seeds. (USDA NRCS, n.d.-b).
Establishment Phase Details	Seeding in Fall or early Spring. (USDA NRCS, n.d.-b)
Length of Establishment Phase	Germination should occur within 4-12 weeks. (American Horticultural Society & Toogood, 1999). May take longer, even up to a year to germinate (Lynn, 2022).
Active Growth Phase	Water plants and keep them slightly moist (USDA NRCS, n.d.-b).
Length of Active Growth Phase	NA
Hardening Phase	Reduce water once foliage becomes more developed. Place outside and let rain do most of the watering (USDA NRCS, n.d.-b).
Length of Hardening Phase	NA
Harvesting, Storage and Shipping	NA
Length of Storage	NA
Guidelines for Outplanting / Performance on Typical Sites	Outplant in Summer or Fall after 2 years (USDA NRCS, n.d.-b).
Other Comments	NA

PROPAGATION DETAILS: VEGETATIVE

Ecotype	No experimentally derived protocols could be found. Protocol is a compilation of seed propagation guidelines. Coastal Northern California is most common. (USDA NRCS, n.d.-a)
Propagation Goal	Plants and bulbs
Propagation Method	Vegetative
Product Type	Bulb division
Stock Type	Small bulbs in plug trays
Time to Grow	Under a year. Should establish faster than seed grown plants.
Target Specifications	Rooted plants.
Propagule Collection Instructions	Once flowering has ended, bulbs can be removed and planted. Likely late Summer. ("How to Grow Alliums," n.d.).
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	NA
Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	NA
Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops	Well-draining media with sun or partial shade in early-mid Fall ("How to Grow Alliums," n.d.; USDA NRCS, n.d.-b).
Establishment Phase Details	Plant bulbs 1-3 inches deep in media (USDA NRCS, n.d.-b).
Length of Establishment Phase	NA
Active Growth Phase	Sparse watering. Limited watering especially during summer ("How to Grow Alliums," n.d.).
Length of Active Growth Phase	NA
Hardening Phase	Reduce water once foliage becomes more developed. Place outside and let rain do most of the watering (USDA NRCS, n.d.-b).
Length of Hardening Phase	NA
Harvesting, Storage and Shipping	NA
Length of Storage	NA
Guidelines for Outplanting / Performance on Typical Sites	Outplant in Summer or Fall after 2 years (USDA NRCS, n.d.-b).
Other Comments (including collection restrictions or guidelines, if available)	NA
INFORMATION SOURCES	
References	Below
Other Sources Consulted	Below
Protocol Author	Isobel Read
Date Protocol Created or Updated	05/16/26

References:

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