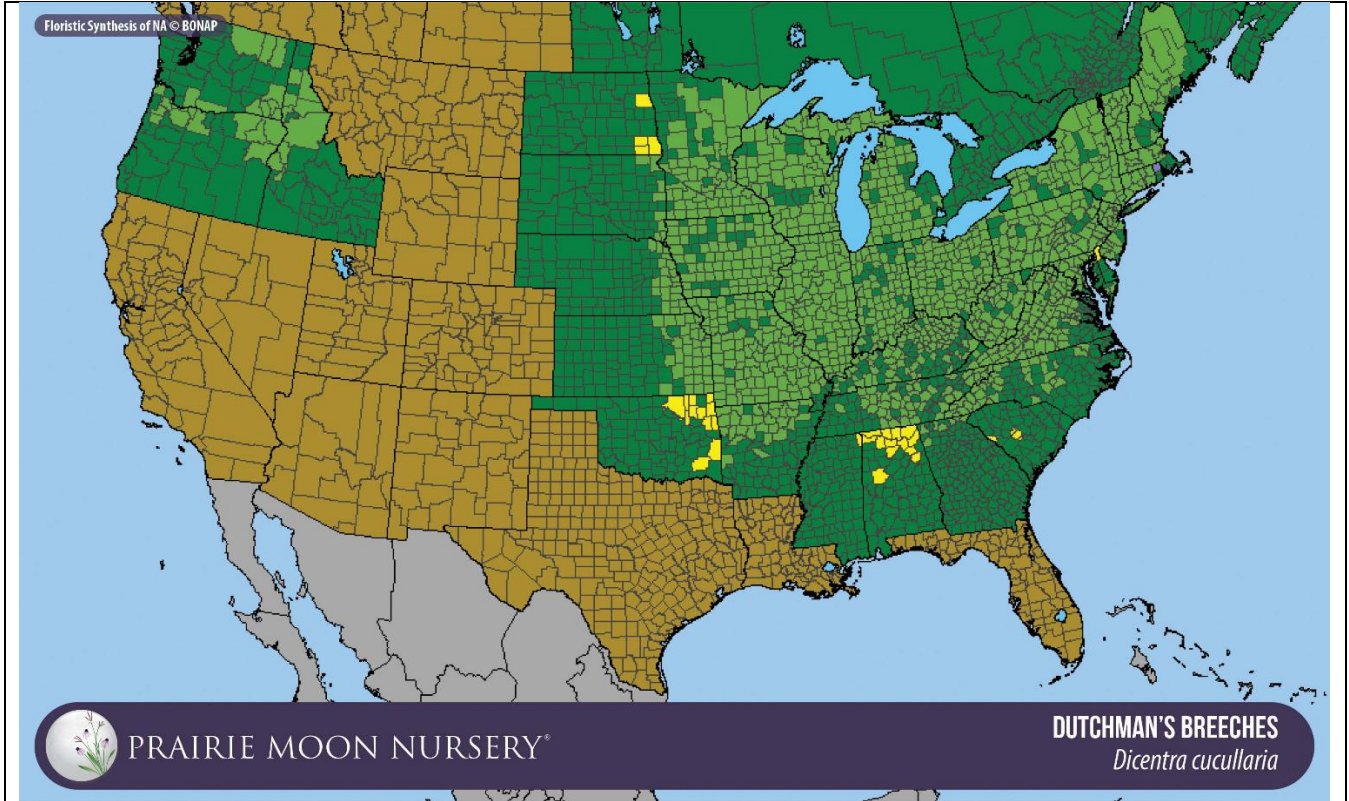


Plant Propagation Protocol for *Dicentra cucullaria*

ESRM 412 – Native Plant Production

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



TAXONOMY

Plant Family	
Scientific Name	Papaveraceae
Common Name	Poppy Family
Species Scientific Name	
Scientific Name	<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i> (L.) Bernh.
Common Synonym(s)	<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i> (L.) Bernh. var. <i>occidentalis</i> (Rydb.) M. Peck
Common Name(s)	Dutchman’s Breeches, Western Dutchman’s Breeches, Little Blue Staggers
Species Code (as per USDA Plants database)	DICU
GENERAL INFORMATION	
Geographical range	Eastern United States and Washington along with select areas in the Pacific Northwest
Ecological distribution	Prefers moist, temperate woods. ⁷ Can be found from forest floor to rocky, riparian slopes. ⁹

Climate and elevation range	Low elevation, ⁷ 0-1500 m, ¹⁶ zones 3-7 ^{9, 14}
Local habitat and abundance	Variety of soils tolerated included gravelly, ⁷ loamy, ¹⁶ and clay. ⁹ Prefers moist, well-draining soil rich in humus with less moisture in the winter. ⁹ Partial to slightly acidic soil in the pH range of 6-6.5. ¹⁴ Requires partial to full shade ⁹ modelled by the dappled light of a forest.
Plant strategy type / successional stage	Spring ephemeral. ⁹ Plants emerge from the ground in early spring, triggered by light filtering through overstory leaves. ¹⁴ Phenology avoids cold temperatures and later on high shade from developed canopy. ² Emergence has been trending earlier due to changes in climate. ¹ After fruiting, bulbets remain dormant until fall and vegetation remains dormant underground until spring. ¹⁶ May spread by sprouting off of underground tubers. ³ Seeds are dispersed by ants, and the spread of this species is likely dispersal limited. ¹³
Plant characteristics	Perennial, upside down pantaloon shaped flowers emerge March-May. ⁷ Plants grow in clumps from a bulbous base with fibrous roots. ¹⁵ Flowers hang from thin stems surrounded by finely lobed leaves. ⁸ Matures at a size of 6-12 inches tall and wide. Pollinated by bees and hummingbirds. ⁷ Disappears completely underground during dormant period. ⁹
Propagation by seed as described by Aaron Suiter	
Propagation Goal	Germinants
Propagation Method	Seed
Product Type	Container
Propagule Collection Instructions	Collect seed pods from local sources in early summer when pods are distended but have not yet burst. Seeds can be manually removed or pods can be allowed to burst on their own.
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	Treatments should begin as soon as seeds are collected.
Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	Seeds require a period of warm and then cold stratification. Moist stratification should commence immediately after collection. A 50/50 blend of vermiculite and perlite should be moistened until damp. Seeds should then be added and kept in an alternating 30/15 C day night temperature regime for four months. Growth medium and seeds should

	then be kept in a 4 degrees Celsius temperature regime for an additional two months.
Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops	Distribute growth medium/seed mix across potting soil in ¼ inch layer. Allow to germinate in a 20/10°C day-night temperature regime.
Establishment Phase Details	6 months
Length of Establishment Phase	2 weeks
Other Comments	Seedlings may transition back into a dormant state after germination. This dormancy may be broken by an additional period of cold stratification.
Propagation by Crown Division as described by Nan Schiller	
Propagation Goal	Plants
Propagation Method	Vegetative
Product Type	Bareroot
Stock Type	
Propagule Collection Instructions (how, when, etc.)	Wear gloves – this species is toxic to consume. After plants have emerged from dormancy and produced leaves, wait until it has been several days since it last rained. Water the parent plant. The next day, dig a hole twelve inches around the parent plant and remove it from the ground. Separate individual stems apart at the crown. Each stem should have its own tuberous root.
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	Information not provided on storage of stems – intended to be planted immediately after division.
Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	None
Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops	Prepare soil at a depth of 4-6 inches in ground or container. Stems can be sown singly or in groups of 2-3. If planting in ground, leave 6 inches between groupings.
INFORMATION SOURCES	
Protocol Author	Emma Howell
Date Protocol Created or Updated	4/28/26

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