


Plant Propagation Protocol for *Myosotis laxa*

ESRM 412 – Native Plant Production

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

TAXONOMY	
Plant Family	
Scientific Name	Boraginaceae
Common Name	Borage family
Species Scientific Name	
Scientific Name	<i>Myosotis laxa</i> Lehm.
Varieties	
Sub-species	
Cultivar	
Common Synonym(s)	
Common Name(s)	Bay forget-me-not, small forget-me-not, small flowered forget-me-not, tufted forget-me-not
Species Code (as per USDA Plants database)	MYLA
GENERAL INFORMATION	
Geographical range	<p>Image: USDA Plants Database</p>

Ecological distribution	Circumboreal distribution (D. Welch, 2020).
Climate and elevation range	At an elevation of 115 - 6735 feet and a climate temperature range between 27 to 62 °F (Calflora).
Local habitat and abundance	Prefers moist soil to shallow water (Kelley & Joyal, 2012). Wetlands, marshes, riparian habitat (Calflora).
Plant strategy type / successional stage	Early successional (Koutecká & Lepš, 2009).
Plant characteristics	 <p>Image: Bob Sweatt, Calflora.org.</p> <p><i>Myosotis laxa</i> is a biennial forb that can grow up to 16 in tall. Its flowers are clustered at the terminal and are light blue in color with a yellow eye in the center. Has 5 petals that are slightly notched.</p> <p>Leaves are alternate and entire.</p> <p>Stems are covered in short, appressed hairs.</p> <p>Blooms in May to September (Calflora).</p>
PROPAGATION DETAILS: FROM SEED	
Information directly from UDSA Protocol by Amy Bartow unless otherwise noted	
Ecotype	Seeds collected from Lane Co., Oregon near Eugene
Propagation Goal	Plants
Propagation Method	Seed
Product Type	Propagules (seeds, cuttings, poles, etc.)
Stock Type	
Time to Grow	Between 1 to 9 months (Calflora).
Target Specifications	Plants should be about 2 to 4 inches tall before outplanting (Hurrion, 2025).

Propagule Collection Instructions	In the spring, once seed capsules begin to brown and wither, pinch your thumb and index finger below the capsules and run your fingers upwards along the stem, pulling them off. Brown seeds are viable, green seeds are not. Separate and dispose of chaff and nonviable green seeds (Jimmy B., 2025) Seeds were collected by cutting off flower stalks when lowest nutlets turned black.
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	Seeds were then dried in a greenhouse and cleaned in an air-screen machine.
Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	Does not require cold stratification to break seed dormancy (Koutecká & Leps, 2009).
Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops	Seeds were planted into conetainers filled with Sunshine #1 (a soil-less peat-based media) amended with micro nutrients (MicroMax) and a slow release fertilizer (Osmocote 14-14-14). Sown flats were placed in a greenhouse set at moderate temperatures (70 degree days, 50 degree nights). Best grown in soil pH range of 5.4 to 8, loam to sandy loam soil, with a minimum depth of 11 inches (Calflora). Based on cultural practices for <i>Myosotis sylvatica</i> , seeds can be sown on soil texture with clay, loam, and high organic matter (NC State).
Establishment Phase Details	Seeds germinated within one to two weeks with no treatment. 95% germination was observed.
Length of Establishment Phase	The time from seedling to germination is about 3 to 4 weeks (Hurrion, 2025)
Active Growth Phase	One-month old plants were transplanted into 3'X 4' tubs filled with 6" of Sunshine #1 media. Plants were spaced 4" apart and watered heavily. This is likely to produce bareroot <i>Myosotis</i> as the finished product. Based on cultural practices for <i>Myosotis sylvatica</i> , seedlings should receive 2-6 hours of direct sunlight per day (NC State).
Length of Active Growth Phase	
Hardening Phase	
Length of Hardening Phase	
Harvesting, Storage and Shipping	Seeds were collected by cutting off flower stalks when the lowest nutlets turned black. They were then dried in a greenhouse and cleaned in an air-screen machine
Length of Storage	

Guidelines for Outplanting / Performance on Typical Sites	
Other Comments	<i>Myosotis</i> flowers for about 33 days (Garbary, 1931).
INFORMATION SOURCES	
References	<p>Bartow, Amy L. (2003). <i>Propagation protocol for production of Propagules (seeds, cuttings, poles, etc.) Myosotis laxa Lehm. seeds</i> USDA NRCS - Corvallis Plant Materials Center Corvallis, Oregon. In: Native Plant Network. URL: https://NativePlantNetwork.org (accessed 2026/05/18). US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, National Center for Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources.</p> <p>B., Jimmy. (Feb 6, 2025). <i>Forget-Me-Not Flower Seed Collection</i>. JimmyB Harvests. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXIYoQj9gcs (accessed 2026/05/18).</p> <p>Calflora Taxon Report. (2026). <i>The Calflora Database, a non-profit organization</i>. https://www.calflora.org/app/taxon?crn=5723 (accessed 2026/05/18).</p> <p>Don Knoke, David Giblin. <i>Myosotis laxa</i>. Burke Herbarium. https://burkeherbarium.org/imagecollection/taxon.php?Taxon=Myosotis+laxa (accessed 2026/05/18).</p> <p>Garbary, Ferrier, and Taylor. <i>Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science</i>. Nova Scotian Institute of Science, 1931, p. 170, https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/56525914.</p> <p>Hurrion, David. (Apr 12, 2025). <i>Unforgettable FORGET-ME-NOTS / Complete guide to this spring flower</i>. BBC Gardeners' World Magazine. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08Pb-ml9d24 (accessed 2026/05/18).</p> <p>Koutecká, Eva, and Jan Lepš. <i>Effect of light and moisture conditions and seed age on germination of three closely related Myosotis species</i>. <i>Folia Geobotanica</i> 44.2 (2009): 109-130. https://www.jstor.org/stable/23064498?seq=1 (accessed 2026/05/18).</p>

	<p><i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>. North Carolina State. https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/myosotis-sylvatica/ (accessed 2026/05/18).</p> <p>Ronald B. Kelley & Elaine Joyal. (2012). <i>Myosotis laxa</i>. Jepson Flora Project (eds.). Jepson eFlora. https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/eflora_display.php?tid=34212 (accessed 2026/05/18).</p> <p><i>Tufted Forget-me-not – Myosotis laxa</i>. NatureSpot. https://www.naturespot.org/species/tufted-forget-me-not</p>
Other Sources Consulted	<p>Brinkkemper, O., van der Maaten, L., & Boon, P. (2011). Identification of <i>Myosotis</i> seeds by means of digital image analysis. <i>Vegetation history and archaeobotany</i>, 20(5), 435-445.</p> <p>D. Welch and P.A. Stroh. (2020). <i>Tufted Forget-me-not</i>. Online Plant Atlas 2020.</p> <p>Pihu, S., Opik, M., Kook, E., & Reier, U. (2009). <i>Morphological and genetic relationships of Myosotis laxa ssp. baltica and ssp. caespitosa, and typification of M. laxa ssp. baltica</i>. <i>Acta Societatis Botanicorum Poloniae</i>, 78(1), 37-49.</p>
Protocol Author	Aileen Wu
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