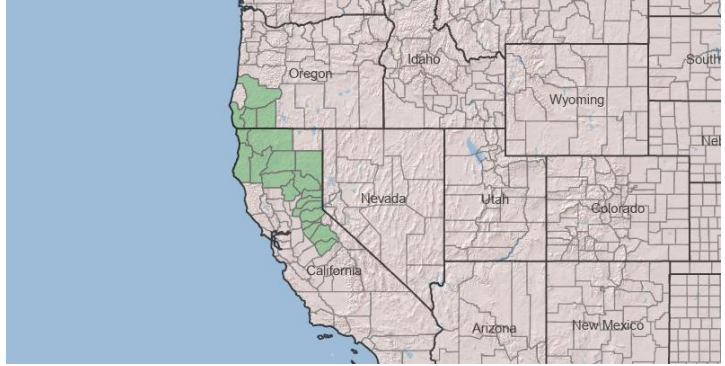



Plant Propagation Protocol for *Sidalcea asprella* Greene

ESRM 412 – Native Plant Production

URL: <https://courses.washington.edu/esrm412/protocols/2026/SIAS4.pdf>

TAXONOMY	
Plant Family	
Scientific Name	Malvaceae Juss.
Common Name	Mallow Family
Species Scientific Name	
Scientific Name	<i>Sidalcea asprella</i> Greene
Varieties	Not recognized by USDA.
Sub-species	<i>Sidalcea asprella</i> Greene ssp. <i>asprella</i> <i>Sidalcea asprella</i> Greene ssp. <i>nana</i> (Jeps.) S.R. Hill <i>Sidalcea asprella</i> ssp. <i>virgata</i>
Cultivar	Not recognized by USDA.
Common Synonym(s)	<i>Sidalcea malviflora</i> (DC.) A. Gray ex Benth. ssp. <i>asprella</i> (Greene) C.L. Hitchc.
Common Name(s)	dwarf checkerbloom, harsh checker mallow, harsh checkerbloom
Species Code (as per USDA Plants database)	SIAS4
GENERAL INFORMATION	
Geographical range	 <p>1</p>
Ecological distribution	<p>The distribution is noted as widely dominating the woods and it can be found in other various environments. These being wetlands, woodlands, and conifer forests. ⁷</p> <p>They are mainly observed along the southern Oregon coast and bleed into the north coastal region of California. Also, it is noticed in northern California and dips a bit into the center of California ¹</p>
Climate and elevation range	<p>This species can appear up to 10,000 feet at the maximum elevation. Although it resides within the 0-4,000 ft elevation range. ²</p>

	While their habitat closely resembles moderately wet to wet areas of land. ⁷
Local habitat and abundance	Although not much information on the exact habitat or associations made, they are typically found in forested and somewhat disturbed areas. Not noted by the USDA maps but observed in northwest Nevada, they rely on supporting vegetation to hold up their thin stems. Also, they are associated with conifer forests. ^{2,7,8}
Plant strategy type / successional stage	This species is drought tolerant and has runners and form free rooting rhizomes and rootstocks. This can be both non/matted roots. ^{5,8}
Plant characteristics	<p>A perennial forb/herb that forms pink flowers. These help native pollinators. As well as reaching growths up to 4 ft high and 3 ft wide. They have thinner, green stems and leaves towards the proximal end. Also, they are most observed from April to the end of August/early September. ^{4,5}</p> 

PROPAGATION DETAILS: FROM SEED

Ecotype	Not applicable.
Propagation Goal	Plant.
Propagation Method	Seed.
Product Type	Container plug ⁴
Stock Type	
Time to Grow	Although not much information about the <i>S. asprella</i> Greene, <i>Sidalcea asprella ssp. virgata</i> plugs are usually ready to plant after 4-6 months within controlled environment. ³
Target Specifications	Not much information is provided. However, once they are large enough to handle, they can be placed into their own individual pots to plant during the summer. ¹⁰

Propagule Collection Instructions	Blooming period lasts between May 1st through September 1st. Some other sources suggest flowering can be observed through April to early September, but no information on fruit formation has been noted. ^{4, 11}
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	No information is provided.
Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	No information was found on the <i>S. asprella</i> Greene, however <i>Sidalcea malviflora</i> can be found to perform best with scarification. Optimally, soak the seeds in 180°F water for around 6 hours. ⁴
Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops	Typically, they can be seeded in flats that are in controlled environments (such as greenhouses). The media include characteristics that are much more water retentive capabilities. These would be similar to loamy textures. ^{4, 6, 10}
Establishment Phase Details	No information found.
Length of Establishment Phase	Not much information. Although the growing seasons for these species have been listed as 1-7 months. With a germination rate of around 1 to 2 weeks under optimal conditions. ^{6, 11} In a controlled environment, such as the greenhouse, the seeds are sown in flats and ambient temperatures around 70°F during the day and 50°F at night. With this model, seeds readily germinate around one to two weeks after being sown. ⁶
Active Growth Phase	They require less water and do not need as much watering events. They usually prefer cooler temperatures, which is why they are most recommended to grow in cool seasons like fall. ⁴
Length of Active Growth Phase	No information found.
Hardening Phase	This process of outdoor planting begins early May. ⁶
Length of Hardening Phase	The plugs can be ready to plant around 4 to six months after this phase. ⁶
Harvesting, Storage and Shipping	Not any information found.
Length of Storage	Not much information found on the <i>S. asprella</i> Greene, <i>Sidalcea malviflora</i> shows that they are able to withstand long cold temperatures. Otherwise not much information on their length of storage. ¹⁰
Guidelines for Outplanting / Performance on Typical Sites	Some tips for growth of similar species <i>Sidalcea malviflora</i> shown that mulching plants during winter are recommended. While flowers that are maintained (cut back) can produce a second bloom in late summer. ¹⁰

	Similar species such as <i>Sidalcea virgata</i> plugs are suggested to be planted in fall or spring as from seed production. ⁶
Other Comments	- Seedlings done within controlled environments (i.e. greenhouses) during fall, are more likely germinate due to the cold stratification. ³
PROPAGATION DETAILS: VEGETATIVE	
Ecotype	Not applicable.
Propagation Goal	Plant.
Propagation Method	Vegetative.
Product Type	Propagules, plugs
Stock Type	
Time to Grow	No information found.
Target Specifications	No information found.
Propagule Collection Instructions	Not much information was found on <i>S. asprella</i> Greene, but <i>Sidalcea malviflora</i> has ways to vegetatively propagate. This is done through cutting the root into 2 to 3 pieces. ⁹ You can divide the root crowns in winter before the flowering stem develops to propagate. ⁹
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	Typically, the cuttings are planted around 8-12 in apart. ⁹
Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	No information was found. However, since they can be propagated through runners, generally with propagating strawberries, they need moist potting mixes to reduce water evapotranspiration. ¹²
Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops	They prefer moist soil that has regular watering in summer. These soils are similar to loamy textures. Some cases for strawberries are 2:1 peat to perlite mix. ^{3, 4, 12}
Establishment Phase Details	Previously, division processing would take place in fall or spring and then plant in moisture-retentive potting mix.
Length of Establishment Phase	No information was found.
Active Growth Phase	No information was found.
Length of Active Growth Phase	No information was found.
Hardening Phase	No information was found.
Length of Hardening Phase	No information was found.
Harvesting, Storage and Shipping	For propagation of strawberries through runners, they are ready to be harvested 8-10 weeks. ¹²
Length of Storage	No information was found.
Guidelines for Outplanting / Performance on Typical Sites	Propagules are best established from starts that can be transplanted in spring or fall. ³

	While divisions/cuttings are more likely to become established when planted in fall season.
Other Comments	- Most information utilizes strawberry propagation for runners as there is no literature that details vegetative propagation for <i>S. asprella</i> Greene.
INFORMATION SOURCES	
References	Sources 1-11 below.
Other Sources Consulted	Source 12 below.
Protocol Author	Micah Rogers
Date Protocol Created or Updated	05/13/26

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