

Plant Giveaway or Swap

A project from Homegrown National Park®

Duration: 1 - 2'

Prep Time: 2 -3'

Engage your: Community

A fun, community-based event where the community can gather to exchange seeds, seedlings, and plants. It promotes local plant diversity, sustainable gardening, and community connections. This is a great low-risk opportunity for beginners to try it out.

Directions:

1. Pick a Date & Location

Choose a convenient, accessible spot like a local park, community center, or your backyard.

2. Invite Participants

Use social media, local bulletin boards, and community groups to spread the word.

Get the local Native Plant Society, Wild Ones, garden clubs etc. to join.

Encourage participants to bring a friend or family member.

3. Set Up the Swap

Provide tables for organizing seeds/plants by type.

4. Include labels or cards and writing tools for participants to identify plants clearly

- Common Name
- Scientific Name
- Light requirements
- Tree, Shrub, Flower, Ground Cover etc.
- Height
- Spread
- If it's a keystone species

5. Allow time for attendees to discuss gardening tips and plant care.

Consider inviting a local gardening expert to answer questions.

6. Keep it simple and inclusive. Welcome people of all skill levels.

7. Offer supplies (like envelopes or bags) for those who did not bring their own.

Enjoy watching your community grow greener together!

Things to keep in mind:

- Accessibility
- Enjoyment for all ages
- How to prevent plant disease spreading

Before You Bring a Plant

- Inspect leaves & stems: no spots, wilting, curling, or mold.
- Check roots: firm and white, not black, mushy, or smelly.
- Look for pests: check under leaves for aphids, mites, or sticky residue.
- Use clean soil/pots: ideally, repot in fresh, sterile potting mix.
- Consider bare-rooting: exchanging without soil helps stop hidden soil pests.

At the Swap

- Only trade healthy, pest-free plants.
- Be open and honest—if your plant has had issues in the past, share that info.
- Keep plants labeled with names and growing needs.

When You Bring Plants Home

- Quarantine new plants for 3-6 weeks away from your existing garden.
- Re-pot in clean containers and fresh soil when possible.
- Monitor daily for signs of stress, pests, or disease.
- Sanitize tools after handling new plants.

Materials

- [HNP flyers/brochures](#)
- How to prevent plant disease spreading checklist for participants (above)

Looking for related activities?

- Seed/Plant Giveaway
- Take Home Planting Seeds
- Tabling Event
- Homegrown National Park Biodiversity Map Registration Drives

Examples



Did you do something a bit different you want to share? We would love to see your photos and hear about your event. [Submit Here](#).