



Canadian anemone

Anemone canadensis, L.

Alternate Common Names

meadow anemone, Canada anemone, roundleaf thimbleweed, crowfoot, round-leaved anemone

Scientific Synonyms

Anemonidium canadense (L.) Á. Löve & D. Löve, *Anemone dichotoma* var. *canadensis* (L.) C. MacMillan

Functional Group

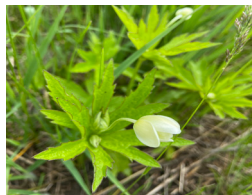
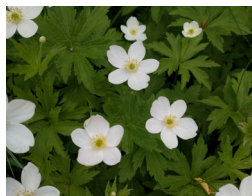
forbs (wildflowers)

Family

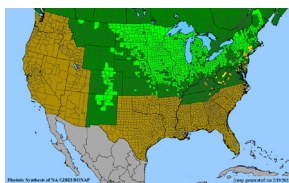
buttercup family (Ranunculaceae)

Description

- » **Life cycle/growth form:** Perennial, rhizomatous, forms colonies.
- » **Height:** 1-2 ft
- » **Leaves and stem:** Leaves basal with long (6 in) stalks, roughly round in outline with 3-5 deep lobes, irregularly toothed margins, and flattened hairs; flowering stem is stiff and hairy and bears a whorl of three stalkless leaves.
- » **Flower:** Large white flowers, 5-parted, with numerous yellow stamens and a green center, up to 1 1/2 in wide, borne singly or in loose clusters of up to 3 flowers at tops of stalks.
- » **Fruit/seed head:** Seed head mace-like, globular, containing numerous beaked achenes, often overtopped by foliage at maturity.
- » **Pollination:** Small bees and flies.



Habitat and Range



Mesic to wet-mesic soil; partial to full sun; moist prairies, sedge meadows, openings in floodplain woodlands, woodland borders, banks of streams, swampy areas; Wetland Indicator Status is Facultative

Wetland (FACW) for the Midwest.

Conservation Status

Global- G5, secure; Kentucky and Tennessee- SX, presumably extirpated; District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia- SH, possibly extirpated; New Jersey and West Virginia- S1, critically imperiled; Connecticut and Wyoming- S2, imperiled; Kansas- S3, vulnerable (NatureServe)

General Comments

Canada anemone blooms early in the growing season, making it an important option for inclusion in pollinator habitat seed mixes. Remnant populations of this species persist along rural roads in Iowa, suggesting that it could be a long-lasting addition to roadside plantings, once established. Its low growth form, adaptability, and spreading habit may also be suitable for novel planting situations such as beneath solar panels. This species is challenging to propagate from seed because of its deep dormancy and difficulties with germination, but once established it tends to spread prolifically and is relatively easy to manage, harvest, and clean. Canada anemone may also be propagated by division of the rhizomes, but more than one genetic clone is needed for seed production.

Establishment for Seed Production (Appendix A)

Direct seeding:

- » **Row spacing:** 30-36 in rows
- » **Seeding rate:** 4.5 PLS pounds/acre (40 seeds/linear foot)
- » **Seeding depth:** 1/4 in
- » **Seeding method:** Native seed drill.
- » **Seeding time:** Dormant season
- » **Weed control:** Prepare clean, firm, weed free seedbed prior to seeding.

Greenhouse:

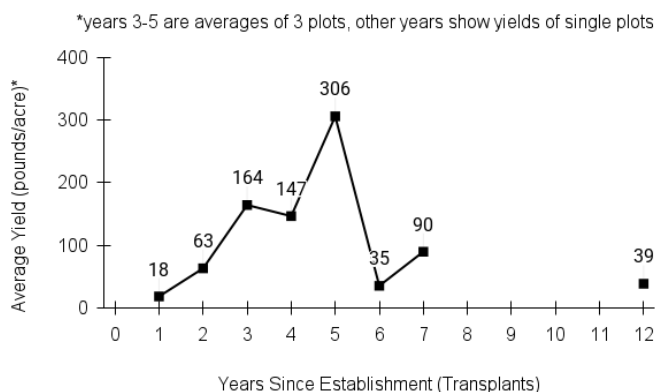
- » **Seed pre-treatment:** Moist stratify 12 weeks at 40° F, or alternatively in ambient winter conditions (unheated building).
- » **Sowing:** Sow seed in greenhouse two months before last frost free date. Typically this species exhibits very high dormancy (low germination) and may require two winter cycles to germinate.
- » **Transplanting:** Transplant into bare soil in rows or weed barrier at 8 in intervals after all danger of frost is past. Once plants are established they spread prolifically by rhizomes, so the weed barrier will need to be removed or slit open to accommodate growth and enhance seed production.

Stand Management

- » **Weeds:** Post-emergent grass herbicide, tillage, hand roguing. Weed control is critical to successful establishment and seed production of this species. Read and follow label instructions.
- » **Pests:** Blister beetles may forage voraciously on foliage.
- » **Diseases:** None noted.

Seed Production (Appendix B)

- » **First harvest:** Some flowering and seed set at the end of first growing season from greenhouse grown transplants. Direct seeded stands may take 3 years to become productive.
- » **Yield:** 18-306 pounds/acre (based on harvest records from 3 plots)
- » **Stand life:** Peak harvests occurred in the years 3-5 after transplanting. Stands at TPC have persisted for 20 years without management, but harvests made from one plot in years 7 and 12 were much smaller than peak yields..
- » **Flowering date:** mid-May - late June.
- » **Seed maturity/Harvest date:** mid - late July
- » **Harvest date range at TPC (2003-2015):** July 15 - July 29
- » **Recommended harvest method:** Combine near maturity, but before seed head breaks apart.



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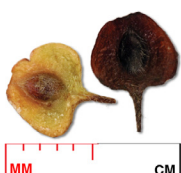
Species Updated: 11/18/2025

Notes

Seed Cleaning Process (Appendix C)

Pre-clean air-dried material by scalping thru 1/2 in and 1/4 in mesh to remove large particles. Air-screen to clean.

Seed Characteristics (Appendix D)



- » **Seeds per ounce:** 8,000 (IA NRCS)
- » **Seeds per pound:** 128,000 (IA NRCS)
- » **1000 seed weight:** 2.89 g (Seed Information Database)
- » **Description:** ‘Seeds’ are actually one-seeded flattened fruits

(achenes), about 1/8 in diameter, arranged in a ball-shape about 3/8 in diameter.

- » **Seed storage:** Stores well in refrigerated conditions (32-40° F, 40-60% RH).
- » **Typical seed test:**
 - PLS: 88% (n = 11)
 - Purity: 96% (n = 11)
 - Germination: 2% (n = 6)
 - Dormant: 91% (n = 6)(averages obtained from n tests of purchased seed lots)

Released Germplasm

- » **Source Identified material:** Natural Selections/Iowa Ecotype Zones 1, 2, 3

References

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