

## Wildflower Seeding Instructions

### Preferred Seed Best & Brightest

#### Option 2 (Best) 2 step process

Late Summer (early to mid August) is recommended for this process. This allows for better establishment of the nurse grasses which can result in better weed suppression.

Apply glyphosate during a period of active growth, wait at least one week and then cultivate soil in order to eradicate existing vegetation. An alternative method to glyphosate is to rototill the soil every other week for 4-6 weeks prior to planting beginning in late June or early July.

Test soil pH and adjust to neutral (6.0-7.0) using either sulfur or lime as per university recommendations. Rototill into soil to a depth 3"-6".

Apply Low Gro/Golf Grass Mix at a rate of 125#-250# per acre as a nurse grass. The higher seeding rate will result in better weed suppression. Also apply starter fertilizer 18-24-12 at a rate of 250# per acre. Rake both into the soil to a depth of 1/4" to 1/2" using a garden/leaf rake or drag with a harrow/box spring/chain link fence.

Culti-pac soil using a V-shaped roller or drive over area with ATV tires. This will assure good seed to soil contact as well as create depressions to hold water for better germination.

Mulch area with Straw (Wheat, Rye or Oats) to assist in water retention. **DO NOT USE HAY.** This contains many perennial weeds which can be difficult to control.

If possible, water twice daily for 20-30 minutes. The first time can be around 5:00-9:00 am and the second time can be around 2:00-4:00 pm.

As soon as germination occurs, fertilize with high nitrogen granular fertilizer such as 30-0-08 at a rate of 150#/acre and repeat every 3 weeks through the end of October. Also, mow this area to a height of 2"-3" as needed in order to prevent weed growth from producing seed heads. Continue mowing until winter.

After the first frost of the Fall, spray a selective broadleaf herbicide similar to one you would use on your home lawn (like Weed-be-Gone). This will eradicate most of the new weeds that emerge after seeding.

Seed area with 5#-10# per acre of wildflowers between late February and the first week of April. This is called a frost seeding and is best on frozen ground. Application can be made on bare soil as well as on top of snow cover. Frost heaving will fracture the soil and create good seed to soil contact.

Maintain each year with a fall mowing to a height of 3"-5" in order to discourage weeds and to spread the annual wildflower seeds for germination the following spring.

After a number of years the site can still become very weedy. At this point you may choose to mow down in September, collect or re-mow clipping debris, wait 2 weeks for re-growth and apply a selective broadleaf herbicide such as weed-be-gone. The grass mix will be unaffected by the herbicide and will continue to serve as a weed barrier. This herbicide will also kill the remaining wildflowers so you will need to reseed them the following late February thru early April when ground is still frozen. This is the same frost seeding you process you performed during initial establishment and can occur on top of the snow if necessary.