

Wildflower Seeding Instructions

Preferred Seed's Best & Brightest

Option 1 (Good) 1 step process

Spring Planting (April/early May) is recommended for this process. This allows for better survival of wildflowers through the following winter.

Apply glyphosate, wait at least one week and cultivate soil in order to eradicate existing vegetation.

Test pH and adjust to neutral (6.0-7.0) using either sulfur or lime as per university recommendations. Till into soil.

Apply wildflowers at a rate of 5-10# per acre and Low Gro/Golf Mix at a rate of 125-250# per acre. The higher seeding rate will result in improved weed suppression. These items can be mixed together for ease of application. The grass mix will serve as a permanent nurse crop which can minimize weed pressure.

Apply starter fertilizer 18-24-12 at a rate of 250# per acre.

Rake seed and fertilizer into 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 with moisture retention as well as warming the soil. **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.

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 next spring.

After 4-5 years the site can become very weedy. At this point you may choose to mow area down in September, collect or re-mow excessive clipping debris, wait 2 weeks for re-growth and apply a selective broadleaf herbicide similar to one you would use on your lawn (like Weed-be-Gone). The grass mix will be unaffected by the herbicide and by this time will be established well enough to restrict weeds more effectively. This application will also kill the remaining wildflowers so you will need to reseed them the following late winter/early spring. This is called Frost Seeding. Your timing would be late February-early April. Ideally you want frozen ground and even on top of snow cover. Generally your second wildflower seeding will be your best due to more effective weed control with an established grass cover.