



WILDFLOWER MIXES PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE

GENERAL INFORMATION

Our wildflower mixtures are formulated on the basis of climatic conditions and elevation. Most species in our mixtures adapt readily to different soil types provided climate and elevation are suitable. Annuals have been included to establish cover quickly and to give color the first year; some may produce new plants the following year (the biennials may also reseed). Perennial plants live for more than two years and flower from the second year onward. Therefore, wildflower plantings look noticeably different after the first year. All species require full or partial sun, mixtures for shady areas are available upon request.

Our mixtures are blended to give the widest possible range of colors and periods of bloom. Very few wildflowers bloom continually throughout the season; therefore, we have included spring-, summer-, and fall-blooming species in each mixture. Plant height varies from creeping to 5 feet.

During their initial establishment period, wildflowers require as much maintenance as traditional planting. Sometimes it is desirable or even necessary to sow seed in second and subsequent years. Reseeding may be necessary if establishment of wildflowers is spotty or poor. It is possible to reseed bare areas with the original mixture. Where natural reseeding or annuals is minimal, sowing annuals each spring can produce a magnificent annual and perennial display throughout the growing season.

In certain cases, a custom blend will be most suitable for your project. Our qualified staff will be glad to assist you in determining your needs.

SITE SELECTION

Sowing wildflower seeds without care and planning usually produces unsatisfactory results. Here are some important factors to consider:

- (1) Does the site support plants now? If you have a site where nothing, including weeds, is growing, that site is unlikely to support wildflowers.
- (2) Will there be adequate moisture during germination and establishment? Can you supply supplemental water, if necessary?

PLANTING RATES

Each mixture has a recommended minimum and maximum planting rate. Minimum planting rates are based on 60-70 seeds per square foot (5 to 10 pounds per acre), which is usually sufficient to establish a good stand of wildflowers on prepared soil when adequate weed control can be maintained. Maximum planting rates are based on 120-140 seeds per square foot (8 to 22 pounds per acre), and are recommended when adequate soil preparation and weed control are not possible, or when maximum color is required. Avoid using more than the recommended rates since poor perennial establishment may result.

Buffalo Brand Seed is an independently owned seed company specializing in alfalfas, native grasses, forage grasses, turf grasses, small grains and annual forages. Our long-term success has been built upon putting family first while maintaining our commitment to exceed our customer's expectations at every opportunity. Buffalo Brand Seed has been supplying customers with high quality seed since 1958.

WHEN TO PLANT

The best time to plant in your area depends on the climate and rainfall patterns as well as the species you are planting. In cool climates, plant annuals, perennials or mixtures of annuals and perennials in spring, early summer or late fall. Fall plantings should be late enough so that seeds do not germinate until spring. Perennials can also be sown in early fall provided that there are at least 10-12 weeks of growing time before the plants go dormant for the winter. Late fall plantings are advantageous when supplemental irrigation cannot be provided and adequate rainfall is anticipated in the spring.

USES OF GRASSES

We recommend sowing wildflower seeds alone or with grasses with similar cultural needs. The grasses can be mixed with the wildflowers, normally at a 95% grass to 5% wildflower ratio, or they can be planted in high-density patches as accents to the grassed areas. Remember that if you plant wildflowers in your grass you will not be able to use a broadleaf herbicide to control weeds.

SITE PREPARATION

Best results will be obtained by removing existing vegetation to avoid competition from other plants. This may be done by pulling, tilling under, spraying with a general herbicide, or by a combination of these methods. Loosen soil by scraping, tilling or scarifying. Tilling should be utilized only when soil is very compacted and further weed control measures can be taken.

FERTILIZATION

Do not fertilize wildflowers unless the soil is extremely depleted of nutrients. Fertilizers encourage weed growth and foliage rather than flowers. If the soil needs improvement we suggest adding organic matter such as weed-free grass clippings or straw, well-rotted compost, or peat moss.

SEED APPLICATION

On small areas, broadcast seeds evenly either by hand or by use of a drop or cyclone spreader. It is helpful to mix a carrier such as clean, dry sand with

the seed. Rake in lightly or drag the area lightly with a piece of chain link fence to mix the seed into the surface of the soil. For seeding large areas, i.e., over one acre, drills are most effective. Drill to a maximum of ¼ inch and firm. Hydroseeders are also effective, especially for steep slopes or rocky terrain.

MOISTURE

All seeds, including wildflowers, need ample moisture to germinate and to develop into healthy seedlings. Soaking the planted areas thoroughly and maintaining consistent moisture for 4-6 weeks – then gradually reducing watering, will obtain best results. In non-irrigated situations, plant in the spring or before periods of anticipated rainfall. In arid climates or during drought conditions, up to ½ inch of supplemental water per week may be required to maintain an optimal display.

WEED CONTROL

Weed control is the biggest problem facing wildflower establishment and one that has no easy solution. Weed seeds are present in many situations and lie dormant, but viable, for long periods of time. A weedy area converted to wildflowers will have a large reservoir of weed seeds in the soil, ready to germinate when conditions are favorable. In most cases, it is advisable to consider weed control in two phases – as part of site preparation prior to planting, and as an important component of the post-germination maintenance program.

Before planting, remove existing weeds by pulling, tilling under, applying a general herbicide such as Roundup or similar product, or by a combination of these methods.

In very weedy areas, the following method is suggested:

1. Till soil or spray vegetation with Roundup. When using an herbicide, allow vegetation to die, and then rake out the dead debris. If perennial weeds such as bindweed are present, using an herbicide is more effective than tilling.
2. Irrigate to encourage germination of weed seeds near the surface; most seeds will germinate within

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two weeks if consistent moisture is available. Do not till the soil again because this will bring even more weed seeds near the surface.

3. Spray any new growth with Roundup.
4. After raking out dead vegetation, allow soil to recover for 3-4 weeks before planting with wildflowers. A recovery period of this duration is advisable because extensive use of these herbicides may cause a delay in germination and in the vigorous growth of seedlings.

Once the wildflowers have germinated, further weed control is usually necessary. If practical, pull all weeds as soon as they can be identified. Other successful techniques are spot-spraying with a general herbicide or selectively cutting weeds with a string trimmer. Be sure to remove weeds before they reseed.

FALL MOWING AND CLEANUP

If desired, wildflowers may be mowed in the fall following seed set. Mow to a height of 4-6 inches, and leave the residue on the ground because it is a reservoir of viable seeds. To prepare the area for fall seeding, it may be necessary to remove any excessive plant material or mulch that could prevent good seed-soil contact. We cannot stress too strongly the importance of a regular wildflower maintenance program. You will be rewarded with a wildflower planting that meets or exceeds expectations and provides a beautiful display year after year.

WILDFLOWER MIXES

- LOW GROW WILDFLOWER MIX**
- DRYLAND WILDFLOWER MIX**
- MOUNTAIN WILDFLOWER MIX**
- WESTERN WILDFLOWER MIX**
- ALL PERENNIAL WILDFLOWER MIX**
- ALL ANNUAL WILDFLOWER MIX**
- BEE HAPPY POLLINATOR MIX**

** All Wildflower mixes are available in 1# bags and bulk.*

*** Mix technical sheets can be found online at www.buffalobrandseed.com*



Mountain Wildflower Mix



Dryland Wildflower Mix

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