

Wildflowers *Planting & Growing Guide*

Preparation

Fall and Spring are the best times to plant wildflowers. Fall planted seeds do not need to be irrigated and should be planted late (even into the winter). This is so the soil is too cold for the seeds to germinate (40 degrees F or less). The seeds will stay dormant in the soil until it warms up in the spring. Spring-planted wildflowers will need to be irrigated until they bloom the first year, but they will naturalize to grow with winter rains in following years. Wildflowers grow best on sites with full sun, low nitrogen, low soil fertility and with existing stands of shorter grasses for soil stabilization. Above all, wildflowers must be protected from heavy weed competition. To prepare a site that is weedy: till, flail, mow, or harrow the area shallowly (2") to bring up as few dormant weed seeds as possible. Then, once or twice, irrigate to germinate and eradicate sprouting weeds. In areas where soil stabilization is an issue or where you would like to create a meadow effect, plant wildflowers with Covar Sheep Fescue at 1/2 lb per 1,000 sq.ft. (see Native Perennial Grass section in our Main Catalog).

Planting & Growing

For Spring planting, it is a good idea to put your wildflower seed in the freezer for a day or two, then thaw for a day. If you freeze them just before planting, you will significantly improve the germination rate of the seed. If broadcast seeding either Fall or Spring planted seed, mix with a carrier such as sand, sawdust or rice hulls to insure even distribution. Broadcast at 1/4 lb/1,000 sq.ft. for a dense effect the first season. The following spring, consider supplementing with more seed to further establish the planting. Use more seed on sites with erosion problems, weeds or limited water. Take care not to cover the seed too deeply. Hand-sown seed can be raked or mulched, but not buried deeper than 1/8". Drilled or mechanically sown seed can be planted to a maximum depth of 1/4". Soil should be firmed down after sowing. Seeds must be kept moist either by rains or irrigation for 4-6 weeks in order to germinate properly. Many wildflowers are drought-tolerant once established, but must receive adequate water for their initial growth. An additional watering or two after spring rains have stopped will greatly enhance bloom and seed production.



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Limitation of Remedy

We warrant to the extent of the purchase price only that the seeds or plants sold hereunder are as described on the label within recognized tolerances. No other warranty is given, expressed or implied, of (1) the merchantability or fitness of the seeds or plants for any particular purpose, or (2) against loss due to any cause. We cannot accept any responsibility for the many uncontrollable growing and climatic conditions (soil preparation, fertilization, weed and pest control, temperature control, irrigation...etc.) that must be met to insure the success of your crop(s) or plants.

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