

Wildflower Meadow



What's a wildflower meadow?

Wildflower meadows are a low maintenance and colorful alternative to a traditional lawn. They attract pollinators and the plants' longer roots hold soil in place to prevent erosion and reduce water pollution.



Maintenance

Mow 6' paths through your meadow to reduce picking up ticks while walking in the area.

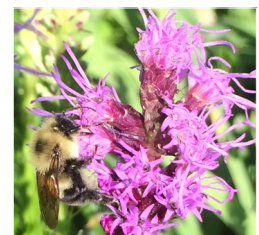
Mow your meadow every two to three years, typically in the late fall after the flowers have dropped their seeds. This will allow for biennial flowers to grow. It will also prevent trees and woody shrubs from establishing in your meadow.

Installation

1. **Select a location** that gets at least six hours of sunlight each day and is not wet. If planting in the spring, waiting until after the threat of frost. If planting in the fall, wait until after a killing frost.
2. **Cut back existing vegetation** with a mower. Bag the clippings to eliminate unwanted seeds from your meadow.
3. **Loosen the soil** to prepare it for seeding. Use a rake for small areas and shallow rototilling for larger areas.
4. **Divide your seed mixture equally** into two buckets. Mix 10 parts sand or vermiculite to 1 part seed in each bucket. A quarter pound of seed will cover approximately 1,000 sq. ft. More seed can be used for a denser stand of flowers.
5. **Sow the seed** by spreading one bucket east to west and the second bucket north to south to prevent bare spots.
6. **Press the seed into the soil** with a lawn roller or walking to ensure good seed to soil contact.
7. **Keep the soil moist** but not wet until seedlings are 4"-6" tall. Once the plants reach this height they should be able to survive with normal rainfall.



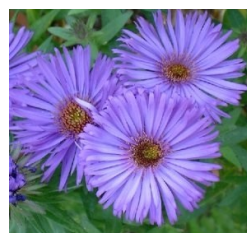
Eastern Red Columbine



Blazing Star

Recommended Plants

Mix in sedges, grasses, and legumes with your perennial flowers like asters, figworts, milkweeds, butterfly weed, echinacea, blazing star, columbine, and black-eyed Susan.



New England Aster



Red Milkweed