

Wildflower Planting Tips

Prior to planting your wildflowers, select a site that will be appropriate for the nature of your project. Improper site selection or planning usually produces unsatisfactory results. Here are some important factors to consider.

- Does the chosen site support plants now? If you have an area that is naturally void of any plants, including unwanted weeds, the area is unlikely to support wildflowers.
- If rainfall is inadequate during germination and the seedling establishment, can you supply supplemental water if necessary?
- Does the area receive a minimum of eight hours of direct sunlight per day?
- Have you determined the existing soil type and drainage within the area? Poorly drained or heavily compacted soils will produce unsatisfactory results.

In order to achieve a successful stand of wild flowers, it is very important that the soil is prepared correctly and the seed is rolled or pressed into the soil after sowing. Burying the seed too deeply or casually broadcasting the seed over an unprepared area will only produce disappointing results.

1. Clear the area to be planted of any unwanted weeds or vegetation. Use round-up to kill any thick grass or weeds if they are hard to control (be sure to follow the directions). Allow 7-10 days for the round-up to work. Only dig down about an inch deep, don't till too far or you will release unwanted dormant weed seeds. If you do this early enough, like 2-3 weeks early, you can allow any weed seeds to germinate before you plant so you can till them again.
2. Use a rake to smooth the soil and remove any clumps or rocks.
3. Sow the seeds directly on top of the soil- do not bury the seeds. Use an old Parmesan cheese can with a shaker top to spread the seeds evenly. Make sure you don't put them on too heavy in the beginning of your patch and run out at the end. I like to spread the seeds in two different passes to help prevent this common problem (yeah, I am speaking from experience). You can lightly press the seeds into the soil by walking over them or do larger plots with a roller.
4. Gently water in the seeds to moisten the soil and provide good seed to soil contact.

Your wildflower seeds will require ample moisture to germinate and develop into healthy seedlings. For best results, the area should be kept moist for 4 to 6 weeks during the establishment period. If natural rainfall is inadequate, supplemental watering with a garden hose may be necessary. Light and frequent applications of water should be applied to keep the ground moist. Once your wildflowers begin to germinate do not allow the site to completely dry out but avoid over watering the area. If the soil becomes overly saturated, the seedlings could die from the lack of oxygen supplied to the root system.

How frequently you water your newly planted area will depend on local rainfall and soil types. Around here, you may need to water every couple days to keep the soil moist

After your seedlings are 1 to 2 inches in height, watering should be gradually reduced and applied only if the plants show signs of stress.

The Cut Flower Mix should be planted after the danger of frost has passed. That is usually after Mothers Day for our region, but may vary from year to year- watch the news for the weather/planting forecasts.

Dave's Secret To Success

Everyone always asks me what my secret is. Well, I'll tell you since you bought some seeds, but don't spread it around or it won't be a secret anymore. OK?

Mushroom Manure!

I like to top dress the area with mushroom manure after I have prepared the ground as described above. Not too much, just enough for a light, even coating of the soil and then rake it in to mix with the dirt a little. Let it sit for a day or three and VOILA! That's it. That's all there is to a successful start for your new seedlings. No further fertilizer will be needed.