

# Wildflower Planting Guide

1. Make certain that the soil temperatures in your area are 55 degrees F or above before planting your seed in a location that will be open to plenty of sunlight. Usually the month of May is the ideal time to plant wildflowers.
2. Prep the soil by removing all existing top growth, root growth, and debris. Loosen the top three inches of soil with a rake or tiller, creating a softened but firm, garden-like seed bed for planting your seeds. Do not till too deeply as this will only stir up weed seeds.
3. Divide your seeds into two equal quantities and place into clean containers. This way you can seed the area twice to ensure even coverage. You can mix each half with dry sand or other inert material to give more volume and make it easier to see where the seeds fall as you sow them.
4. Scatter your seeds as evenly as possible over the prepped site. For best results, sow half the seed by walking from north to south and the remaining half by walking from east to west.
5. Press the seeds into the soil with a roller or by walking the entire area. Or lightly rake or drag the seeded area to very shallowly cover the seeds. Covered the seeds with less than a quarter inch of soil. A very light mulch of organic matter can also be used to cover the seeds and help keep them moist. Care must be taken to not cover them too deeply or with a material that will create a dense mat that the plants cannot grow through.
6. Water the entire area until the seed bed is thoroughly moist using a gentle spray so as not to wash away your seeds.
7. Fertilizing your new wildflower planting is usually not necessary and may encourage more foliage growth instead of blooms. Young plants are often susceptible to damage from fertilizers.
8. Check your planting often and water until the top few inches of soil are thoroughly moistened if it is in danger of drying out.
9. Resist the urge to pull weeds in the beginning as it can be very difficult to tell the difference between a weed and a wildflower seedling early on. Remember not all wildflowers will grow right away. In fact, you may see some the second year that you didn't see at all the first year.