

Wildflower Seed Fall Fundraiser 2023

and Wildflower Seed spreading basic guide (see back)

Wildflowers to the Rescue! Whether you're seeding a small space garden, filling in a side yard, or planting across acres of land, wildflowers are an easy-to-grow solution. Because they're easy to care for, wildflowers can be helpful problem-solving plants and supportive of pollinators. Want to grow a big flower garden, without planting and tending to dozens of plants? Replace some of your lawn with a meadow! Create a pollinator strip between your street and property/lawn. Overseed an existing meadow to fill in the gaps. Whatever the motivation, the pollinators will be appreciative!

This our first year offering three seed mixes in limited quantities, so purchase your seeds today (while supplies last)! Pick-up your order at the office or request purchases to be mailed to you for an additional fee. Please complete the form below and send with payment to:
KLSWCD-Seed Sale 893 West St, Rockport, ME 04856.

Price	Name	Qty	Subtotal
\$4.50 ea / 1 oz. pckg	Showy New England Wildflower & Grasses Mix: The native wildflowers and some grasses provide a gorgeous display of color from spring to fall. Designed for upland sites with well-drained soils and full sun to semi-shaded areas; ideal for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds. Height: 1.0 – 5.0 Ft Seeding Rate: 20 lbs/acre with 30 lbs/acre of a cover crop. For a cover crop use either grain oats (1 Jan to 31 Jul) or grain rye (1 Aug to 31 Dec).		
\$51.71 per 1 lb.	Showy New England Wildflower & Grasses Mix (Bulk)		
\$4.00 ea / 1 oz. pckg	New England Annual & Perennial Mix: This seed mix offers plants that will be showy the second year and beyond, changing color and texture as they mature. Designed for upland sites and meadows; ideal for attracting native pollinators. Height: 1.0 – 5.0 Ft Seeding Rate: 7-10 lb per acre. No cover crop is recommended with this mix.		
\$44.42 per 1 lb.	New England Annual & Perennial Mix (Bulk)		
\$4.50 ea / 1 oz. pckg	Butterfly & Hummingbird Garden Mix: Designed specifically to attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and other native pollinators, this seed mix is best for upland sites and meadows. Height: 0.7 – 6.5 Ft Seeding Rate: 7-10 lb per acre with 30 lbs/acre of a cover crop. For a cover crop use either grain oats (1 Jan to 31 Jul) or grain rye (1 Aug to 31 Dec).		
\$48.60 per 1 lb.	Butterfly & Hummingbird Garden Mix (Bulk)		
	Maine Sales Tax (x 0.055)		
	Please choose either: <u>picking up your order</u> at our office (free), or		
	Add USPS shipping fees: \$6.25 for up to 5 one-ounce pckgs; or \$10.50 for up to 5 lbs; or \$13.00 for 5.01 – 10+ lbs)		
	Total Enclosed (Make checks payable to Knox-Lincoln SWCD)		

For questions contact Julie at info@knox-lincoln.org or 207-596-2040

FMI: Check out our website: www.knox-lincoln.org/landscapes-gardens-maine



Wildflower Seed spreading basic guide:

Extracted from: "Planting for Pollinators: Establishing a Wildflower Meadow from Seed [fact sheet]" UNH Cooperative Ext. (Feb 2019)

1. Choosing a Site:

- Not all wildflowers are suitable for all conditions. A site with full sun and good drainage is ideal for many species, but partial shade and/or wet areas can be tolerated by many others. Consider your site and soil conditions carefully in order to select an appropriate wildflower mix.
- It's best to start in a small area, but consider 400 square feet to be a minimal size for a wildflower meadow – this space can support a good diversity of wildflower species.
- A place where pollinators can come and go safely with little disturbance or exposure to pesticides or other household chemicals is ideal.

2. Site Preparation:

- Successfully establishing a meadow from seed is a three-year process, with the first year devoted to good site preparation. This isn't the fun part but eliminating competitive weeds before you plant is essential to long-term success. How to get started depends on the beginning site conditions and what materials and methods you decide to use.

What are You Starting with?

- *Rough turf or lawn areas* – It is essential to completely kill existing grasses and other perennial weeds in a turf area before planting wildflowers. A full season of site preparation is critical to success, because young wildflower seedlings stay small and low to the ground their first year of growth and are not able to compete against more vigorous weeds. These and other perennial weeds can be effectively killed by a process called "smothering" during the course of the summer prior to planting wildflower seeds.
- *Cultivated soil* (such as an agricultural field or garden) – A piece of land that has been recently cultivated for crops may appear to be relatively weed-free; however, there is usually a reserve bank of weed seeds lying dormant in the soil. Eliminating seedlings as they appear (and before they set seed) will diminish the weed seed bank over time.
- *Forest/ woodland sites* – recently logged or cleared woodlands usually have low soil pH and nutrient levels, but still can become successful meadow areas. Stumping, grading and/or excavating and raking is usually necessary. The period of time between clearing and seeding may be bridged with an annual grass crop or cover crops. An effort should be made to select species that are tolerant of acid soils. However, if pH is very low (<5.5), it may be prudent to make an application of lime and other amendments as recommended by a soil test.
- *Other disturbed sites* – construction sites or other sites which have been excavated, graded and/or filled with soil from off-site present a special challenge because conditions are hard to predict. Gathering as much information as possible will help you select appropriate meadow species for planting. Have the soil tested for soil texture, pH, nutrient levels, and organic matter.

3. Planting – When and How:

- Fall is a good time to seed, as wildflower germination will be enhanced by exposure to cold temperatures and damp soil during the winter. The fall planting season in northern New England extends from late September through early December, depending on the year. A safe strategy is to aim for mid- to late-October, whereas November weather is unpredictable and snow could cover the ground at any time. If that happens, or if there are other reasons you choose to plant in the spring, store your seed in the refrigerator or other cold (35-40°F), dry place for the winter and then plant it as early in the spring as possible.
- Broadcasting (spreading seed by hand) is the preferred method for small areas. A carrier such as vermiculite or sand is needed to "bulk up" the volume of material to be distributed

4. What to Expect:

- *Year 1* - is the season for site preparation, an essential but not very attractive process.
- *Year 2* –you should see wildflower seedlings germinate and emerge as the soil warms up in the spring, but it's hard to tell the wildflowers from the weeds at this point. Some wildflowers won't even germinate for 2-3 years following planting, and most grow low to the ground the first season. Consider mowing in mid-summer at a 4-6" mowing height, whacking the weeds back but going right over the top of most wildflower seedlings.
- *Year 3* –wildflowers will emerge quickly in the spring and grow much faster and larger this year. Most weeds are slower to get started and are often being out-shaded and out-competed by a dense wildflower mix.
- *Year 4 and beyond* – pollinator will reap the rewards of your efforts, enjoying a dense, diverse mix of colorful wildflowers from spring through late fall.