

## **NATIVE FLOWER SEED PACKET INSTRUCTIONS**

There are 3 ways to utilize your packet:

### **1. To establish a small 10' x 10' space where there is currently turf:**

- **Choose an area in full sun** - Use a hose or rope to lay out the shape of your area in a 10 x 10' space.
- **Sow anytime except in the summer** – Mow turf as low as possible, do not spray with chemicals. DO NOT TILL.
- **Cover area with cardboard to kill grass. Killing pre-existing vegetation is the most important step to establishing a successful space. Wet thoroughly and add weight to keep cardboard in place.** - Check in two weeks to see that turf is dead. If not, check periodically until it is.
- **Once dead, remove cardboard.** – Leave the dead turf. The turf acts as a mulch and weed barrier.
- **Broadcast seed evenly onto dead turf** – Our seed already has rice hulls which acts as a carrier for the seed and allows you to see where you have placed the seed. Hand broadcast it in one direction, then switch to another direction to assure the most even coverage. Rake the seed into the dead turf. NEVER fertilize pollinator seeds or plants. No need to water if you are planting late November to Mid-May. Nature will do this part.

**2. On bare soils:** Ex. Along house, barn or fences. Broadcast over the soil from late November to Mid-May. Cover with a *very* light coating of soil (not more than ¼ - 1/8 of an inch). No need to water.

**3. In the garden:** Establish a row of native flowers beside the garden, between or among vegetables to attract pollinators and increase yield. If soil is tilled, rake soil flat, broadcast seed over the soil, flip a rake upside down and run it over the seed once. You can tamp it down by walking over the area. Keep in mind, most of the flowers in the mix are perennial, so the seed will need to be established in an area that will be permanent and have access to a mower.

### **Maintaining your garden.**

Year 1 - Mow 2 x's once the plants are 12" high. Set the mower at the highest setting. This will kill any annual weeds and keep hardwoods from becoming established.

Year 2 – Do the same if you see that annual weeds are still present. There is some clover seed in your mix which will provide food the first few years until the longer lasting perennials are established. The clover will die out as the other perennials take hold.

Year 3 – You will see the most reward this year.

\*\*\*Pollinators will develop in the stems of your plants and the birds will eat the seeds from the flowers over the winter. For this reason, do not mow until late spring each year after the first two years of maintenance.

BE PATIENT...Some seeds will take more than 2 years to germinate.

[https://www.google.com/search?q=youtube+on+planting+pollinator+seed+small+area&rlz=1C1GCEA\\_enUS1023U S1023&oq=youtube+on+planting+pollinator+seed+small+area&gs\\_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIGCAEQRRhA0gEJMTA1NDJqMG00qAIAAsAIB&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:7863057c,vid:vM32pQzw3FY,st:0](https://www.google.com/search?q=youtube+on+planting+pollinator+seed+small+area&rlz=1C1GCEA_enUS1023U S1023&oq=youtube+on+planting+pollinator+seed+small+area&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIGCAEQRRhA0gEJMTA1NDJqMG00qAIAAsAIB&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:7863057c,vid:vM32pQzw3FY,st:0)