

## **NATIVE FLOWER SEED PACKET INSTRUCTIONS**

**Seed Type:** Special mix by Pond Seed. See our list at <https://www.putnamswcd.com/s-projects-basic>

There are 3 ways to utilize your packet: Feel free to watch this YouTube video before you begin.

[https://www.google.com/search?q=youtube+on+planting+pollinator+seed+small+area&rlz=1C1GCEA\\_enUS1023US1023&oq=youtube+on+planting+pollinator+seed+small+area&gs\\_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIGCAEQRRhA0gEJMTA1NDJqMGo0qAIAAsAIB&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_enUS1023US1023&oq=youtube+on+planting+pollinator+seed+small+area&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIGCAEQRRhA0gEJMTA1NDJqMGo0qAIAAsAIB&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:7863057c,vid:vM32pQzw3FY,st:0)

### **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.
- **Mix seed with a carrier:** Damp sand, damp sawdust, kitty litter, vermiculite or cracked corn are seed carrier options. This will help prevent overseeding, allow you to see where seed has been placed and allow small seed to be evenly placed throughout the mixture.
- **Broadcast seed evenly onto dead turf:** 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 early - May. Nature will do this part.
- **Tamp:** Run a rake or walk over seeds to make sure they are in good contact with the soil.

**2. On bare soils:** Ex. Along house, barn or fences. Broadcast over bare, roughed up soil from late November to early-May. Cover with a *very* light coating of soil (not more than ¼ - 1/8 of an inch). No need to water. If sowing later in May or throughout the summer, consistent watering is necessary.

**3. In the garden:** Establish a row of native flowers beside the garden or 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 as year 1 if you see that annual weeds are still present. You can also hand cut weeds down to the soil if there are just a few.

Year 3 and beyond – Mow in late April.

**\*\*\***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.