

# Knee-High

# Wildflower Mixture



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Des Moines Forage & Turf

**I | Perennial &  
I | Annual Wildflowers**

## Perennials



Blue Flax



Gaillardia



Lance Leaf Coreopsis



Sweet William



Black-Eye Susan



Siberian Wallflower



Dwarf Red Coneflower



Moss Verbena



African Stick Daisy



Sweet Alyssum



Forget Me Not



## Annuals



Clarikia



Larkspur



Baby's Breath



Candytuft



African Daisy



Catchfly



Mixed Poppy



Red Corn Poppy



Polkadot Coneflower



Plains Coreopsis



Scarlet Flax

# Knee-Hi Wildflowers

## INFORMATION SHEET

Prairies can grow well on any soil type as long as the site is relatively sunny.

### SEEDBED PREPARATION

There are several ways to prepare a site for seeding. Important factors for a successful planting are contact of seeds with the soil, a firm seedbed, and some method of discouraging competition from annual weeds.

If erosion is not too much of a problem, plow or till your area late fall or early spring. Disc shallowly at approximately two-week intervals. Drag or rake before seeding. If the seeds are broadcast, drag or rake again after seeding. The area should then be packed to make a firm seedbed. For small areas, a water filled lawn packer works well. For large areas, a field roller such as a cultipacker works well.

On highly erodible sites or very weedy areas, the use of short-lived herbicide is sometimes recommended. Spray when vegetation is 4-6" tall. After plants die, the area can then be shallowly disked or raked, then dragged, and planted as above. An option is to direct seed with a slit seeder or no-till drill after spraying.

### PLANTING DATES

Prairies can be planted in spring and early summer and again in late fall just before the ground freezes.

### SEEDING

An area as large as an acre can be hand seeded by one person in a few hours. Mix the seed thoroughly with an inert material to increase bulk. Work slowly and try to cover the ground as evenly as possible. Always divide the seed in half and broadcast the area from two directions. A light wind greatly aids in getting even distribution. Setting up a grid system using flags or markers will also help to get the seeds spread evenly.

## MAINTENANCE TIMETABLE

Following a timetable to ensure enough light for the prairie seeding to grow with plant diversity. All prairie plants do not develop at the same rate. Mowing keeps the slower ones from being crowded out.

### FIRST YEAR: *If weeds and annual grasses are invasive*

Mow several times at a height of 6-8 inches. Setting your lawn mower as high as it will cut, works fine.

### SECOND YEAR: *If weeds are still a problem*

Mow until mid June and then allow your prairie to grow.

### THIRD YEAR:

Prairies thrive on fire. If it is practical for your area, a spring burn just after the ground begins to green up will really give your prairie a boost and set back the weeds. If burning is not practical, mow once in early spring or late fall.

### FOURTH YEAR & BEYOND:

One annual early spring or late fall mowing or a burn every two or three years will permanently maintain your prairie.

### SEEDING DATA:

<u>SEEDERS</u>	<u>SETTING</u>	<u>5# COVERAGE</u>
Drop	#7	1000 Square Feet
Cyclone	#3	1000 Square Feet
Other	1/4" Max	1000 Square Feet

**Wildflower Bed,** 1# Knee-High Wildflower Mix & 4# Inert Material

**Meadow,** 1/2# Knee-High Wildflower Mix & 4 1/2# Inert Material

**Prairie,** 1/4# Knee-High Wildflower Mix & 4 3/4# Inert Material

**Over Seeding,** 1/8# Knee-High Wildflower Mix & 4 7/8# Inert Material