Not Too Tall WILDFLOWER MIXTURE

United Seeds' Intermediate Ht. Wildflower Mixture is comprised of wildflowers that will reach a maximum height of three feet or less. The species in the mixture are will be blend well with lower growing native grass species or even as 100% wildflower habitat. Pollinators will love this mixture as well.

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	PERCENT OF MIX	TYPE	HEIGHT	BLOOM PERIOD	BLOOM COLOR
BLACK SAMSON	ECHINACEA ANGUSTIFOLIA	5.0%	PERENNIAL	12-24"	SUMMER	VIOLET
BLACKEYED SUSAN	RUDBECKIA HIRTA	5.0%	PERENNIAL	12-36"	SUMMER-FALL	YELLOW
BLANKETFLOWER	GALLARDIA ARISTATA	5.0%	PERENNIAL	18-30"	SUMMER	YELLOW-RED
BLUE FLAX	LINUM PERENNE	0.05	PERENNIAL	24-36"	SPRING-SUMMER	BLUE
BUTTERFLY MILKWEED	ASCLEPIAS TUBEROSA	7.5%	PERENNIAL	18-30"	SUMMER	ORANGE
DOTTED GAYFEATHER	LIATRIS PUNCTATA	2.5%	PERENNIAL	10-16"	SUMMER-FALL	PURPLE
DWARF GOLDENROD	SOLIDAGO NEMORALIS	2.5%	PERENNIAL	12-24"	SUMMER-FALL	YELLOW
HOARY VERVAIN	VERBENA STRICTA	2.5%	PERENNIAL	24-36"	SUMMER	PURPLE
INDIAN BLANKETFLOWER	GALLARDIA PUCHELLA	5.0%	ANNUAL	12-24"	SUMMER	YELLOW-RED
LANCELEAF COREOPSIS	COREOPSIS LANCEOLATA	10.0%	PERENNIAL	18-36"	SUMMER-FALL	YELLOW
LEMON MINT	MONARDA CITRIODORA	5.0%	PERENNIAL	12-24"	SPRING-SUMMER	LAVENDER-WHITE
MEXICAN HAT	RATIBIDA COLUMNIFERA	10.0%	PERENNIAL	12-36"	SUMMER	YELLOW-RED
PERENNIAL LUPINE	LUPINUS PERENNIS	5.0%	PERENNIAL	12-36"	SPRING-SUMMER	BLUE
PLAINS COREOPSIS	COREOPSIS TINCTORIA	2.5%	ANNUAL	16-36"	SUMMER	YELLOW / RED
PURPLE CONEFLOWER	ECHINACEA PURPUREA	12.5%	PERENNIAL	24-36"	SUMMER	PURPLE
SHASTA DAISY	CHRYSANTHEMUM MAXIMUI	5.0%	PERENNIAL	18-30"	SUMMER	WHITE
SHELL LEAF PENSTEMON	PENSTEMON GRANDIFLORU	2.5%	PERENNIAL	24-36"	SPRING-SUMMER	PINK-LAVENDER
UPRIGHT CONEFLOWER	RATIBIDA COLUMNIFERA	7.5%	PERENNIAL	12-36"	SUMMER	YELLOW

SEEDING RATES: 2 OUNCES / 200 FT² _ SEEDING DATES: NOV – FEB or APR – MAY

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ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE

ESTABLISHMENT

Native wildflowers can be established from a number of effective methods. Regardless of the method however, the rate of establishment is directly related to amount of seed-to-soil contact that is achieved. Most native wildflower seeds have a natural dormancy that must be broken in order to germinate. Seed-to-soil contact is one way to break dormancy with the scratching of the seed coat. Once this takes place, then water can be absorbed and thus begin the germination process.

Native wildflowers can be inter-seeded into existing vegetation, drill seeded, broadcast seeded or frost seeded. Again, regardless of the method, finding a way to get the seed into the soil, past any dead (or living) vegetative matter and into the soil is crucial.

For inter-seeding into existing (living) vegetation, a "no-till" mechanical drill is best. The drill can cut past the vegetative matter and place the seed into the soil and pack the soil to achieve good seed-to-soil contact. This method disturbs the existing soil the least amount, thus not disturbing as many weed seeds. If a drill is not an option, then wildflower seed can be broadcast into existing vegetation and worked in lightly to disturb the soil and cover the seed. This can be done with a disk harrow or spike harrow with the spikes turned the opposite direction of the travel path. Although weed seeds will be disturbed and be a potential problem, existing vegetation will be only minimally affected yet still provide "cover" for the young wildflower seedlings. Inter-seeding into an existing native grass stand is the perfect way to add separation for the wildflowers and give that "natural" appearance.

Seeding into bare ground follows much the same premise. Drill seeding is best, broadcast seeding will work fine if the seed can be covered with no more than a ¼ of soil. Covering the seeded area with straw or mulch will help to retain soil moisture.

Another highly effective seeding method is dormant (frost) seeding. This is done when the ground is either frozen with or without snow cover or just when the ground is too cold to facilitate germination. It can be seeded by using a mechanical drill, or broadcasting. Much like in established native settings, wildflower seeds will be dispersed by wind or birds, and once the freeze/thaw cycle is complete in the spring, the seeds have gone through a physiological stage that breaks dormancy.

Weeds will be an issue. The more the soil is disturbed, the more the weeds will become a problem. Controlling weeds before they produce seed will shorten the amount of time that the wildflower stand will eventually take over. If the area is large, hand weeding may not be the most viable option, so mowing the weeds may be the only option. With no commercially available herbicides for post-emergence weed control. Weed control during establishment will be the biggest challenge. For larger areas, this can be somewhat alleviated by seeding the wildflowers with native grasses. Weed control becomes easier when the wildflowers become well rooted and are not easily pulled out with the weeds.

MAINTENANCE

The whole idea behind the Native Wildflower mix is low maintenance. Once established, the wildflowers will re-seed themselves, further thickening the stand. Fertilizer is not generally needed unless is the soils are deficient; Water is generally not needed, although in exceptionally dry weather to prevent death watering is recommended. The wildflower stand can be mowed down in the spring to help encourage new growth and distribute seeds. Weeding may be needed, but as time goes by, the wildflower stand will thicken and increase.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Creating a native setting cannot be mimicked in one, or even two years. Above all else, patience is the biggest factor in creating native wildflower (and native grass) habitat that looks like the real thing. To help "speed-up" the establishment we would encourage incorporating native grasses within the area as well. Native grasses add separation to the wildflowers, which add to the authentic native look, as well as helping to control weeds and retain moisture. A suggested course of action would be to establish the native grasses first, then two to three years down the road, incorporate any wildflowers you wish to establish.

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