

Recommended Seeding Procedure for a Field of Florida Native Wildflowers

1. Prepare planting area (remove turf, eliminate weeds).
2. Scratch or firm up soil as needed. It is essential that seed make contact with soil and be in the top ¼ inch. If the soil surface is hard, lightly scratch it with a rake. If you have very soft, sandy soil, firm it up by using a turf roller or something heavy that will compact the soil.
3. Sow the seed. In a small area, you can plant by hand. For larger areas, use a seed spreader or the bucket method: Fill a large bucket about halfway with sand or vermiculite, slightly moisten it and add half of the total seed mix. Mix thoroughly and, starting at one end of plot, spread the mixture evenly over the site. Repeat with remaining half of seed, starting at the opposite end of plot.
4. Work the seed into the soil. Walk over the entire plot to ensure good soil-to-seed contact. Seeds should be planted 1/8-1/4" deep at most. The depth at which seed should be planted generally correlates to the size of the seed. Confirm this with your seed supplier.
5. Water the plot. If you don't have rainfall after planting, you'll need to irrigate to establish your wildflowers. Using a misthead attachment on a garden hose, provide from ¼-1/2" of water daily for 2-3 weeks. Set a small can or jar on the ground to measure how much water you've applied. After the seedlings emerge, watch rainfall and provide ½" of water if seedlings wilt.
6. Keep out weeds. Monitor the plot regularly and remove weeds promptly.
7. Do not fertilize the first year. Florida native wildflowers are naturally adapted to thrive in nutrient-poor soils.

Always consult with your seed supplier and obtain your Florida ecotype seeds from a reputable source (AFNN and the Wildflower Seed and Plant Growers Association).

These procedures developed by Jeff Norcini, Oecohort (www.oecohort.com)