

## Wildflowers:

### Botanical Name:

*Centaurea cyanus*  
*Lupinus perennis*  
*Lupinus polyphylus*  
*Gypsophila elegans*  
*Linum rubrum*  
*Coreopsis lanceolata*  
*Cheiranthus allionii*  
*Linum lewissii*  
*Echinacea purpurea*  
*Chrysanthemum maximum*  
*Gaillardia pulchella*  
*Rudbeckia hirta*  
*Liatris spicata*  
*Silene armeria*  
*Linaria maroccana*  
*Aquilegia vulgaris*  
*Dianthus barbatus*  
*Digitalis puprea*  
*Lychnis chalconica*

### Common Name:

Bachelor button  
Perennial lupine  
Russell lupine  
Baby's breath  
Scarlet flax  
Coreopsis lance leaved  
Siberian wallflower  
Blue flax  
Purple coneflower  
Shasta daisy  
Indian blanket  
Black-eyed susan  
Gayfeather  
Catchfly  
Spurred snapdragon  
European columbine  
Sweet william  
Foxglove  
Maltese cross



### Coverage Rates:

- 25g Wild Flower Seed w 125g Sheep's Fescue  
Covers approx. 250 sq.ft / 25m<sup>2</sup>
- 50g Wild Flower Seed w 250g Sheep's Fescue  
Covers approx. 500 sq.ft / 45m<sup>2</sup>
- 125g Wild Flower Seed w 500g Sheep's Fescue  
Covers approx. 1000 sq.ft. / 90m<sup>2</sup>

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# Wildflower with Fescue



**W**ildflower gardening is becoming an increasingly popular method of adding a splash of colour and greenery to low maintenance areas. Wildflowers combine gentle beauty and hardiness and have become a frequent sight around ponds, in open areas between trees or in fringe areas.

Most perennial and biennial flowers will not produce blossoms until the second season. This is why Halifax Seed Wildflower Mix includes annuals in their mixes - to get colour the first season.

Sheep's fescue and hard fescues help to 'fill' in the wildflower garden and offer a more naturalistic meadow appearance. These grasses will also prevent soil erosion until the flowers are large enough to stabilize the soil by themselves.

### **Location, Location, Location!**

While a planting of wildflowers may look like a dazzling natural display, it does require some initial work in order to establish itself properly. A proper site should be appropriate for the natural and casual look of wildflowers and should be relatively weed free. If the desired site is growing grass, this is a good sign that wildflowers would survive and thrive. If the site is barren of both grass and weeds, this may not be habitable for the growth of wildflowers due to low fertility, lack of adequate moisture, etc.

For optimum performance, most wildflowers require a sunny location, which receives at least 6-8 hours of direct sunlight a day. If the location is quite shady, the plants and blossoms may be smaller and often the weeds will be able to crowd out the flowers.

### **Prepping the soil:**

It is very important to properly prepare the soil, as seed/soil contact is vital for seed germination and proper rooting. Best results occur when planting on bare soil. If there are weeds or turf in the planting area these must be removed to eliminate any competition for available nutrients, water and sun.

Weed control is the largest problem when establishing a wildflower garden. If there are only a few weeds, these may be quickly and easily removed by hand. Tilling the soil to loosen and uproot plants makes hand removal of weeds easier, but this cultivation may also promote the germination of weed seeds present in the soil. Because of this, it is usually best not to till the soil.

If there is a dense population of weeds then a two-stage removal may be necessary. Begin by removing the existing vegetation using a tiller and hand weeding. Once the soil is bare, keep the site well watered for several weeks until many of the existing weed seeds in the earth have germinated. Repeat the first step to eradicate this new invasion of undesirables. This may help reduce the amount of future weeds that invade your wildflower garden.

Once the majority of vegetative material has been removed the soil should be lightly raked or scarified to loosen the top layer. One notable characteristic about wildflowers is that they prefer soils of lower fertility, therefore it is not necessary to apply any or much fertilizer prior to planting. If the soil is particularly infertile then compost, manure or a general fertilizer like 8-12-6 may be added to increase the organic matter in the soil encouraging beneficial microorganisms to add some nutrients.

### **How to Seed:**

Because of the vastly different sizes of seed in wildflower mixes, it is often easier to sow with the use of a carrier such as vermiculite or sand (2:1 carrier to seed). This will allow for more even seed sowing. If sowing seed in a small area, hand broadcasting, with a carrier, is the most efficient method.

For larger areas, the wildflower seed may be sown with the use of a cyclone-type spreader. Mix the seed and the carrier together thoroughly and place in a spreader. Once the seed has been spread over the site, a light raking will be required to cover the seed with 1/8" of soil. It is very important to ensure that the seed is not covered too deeply as this will delay or prevent seed germination.

### **Care:**

Once the seed has been planted it must be watered. The planting site must be kept moist for 4-6 weeks. If the site you have chosen has no water supply available planting should occur in the spring, preferably before a rainfall; this will allow the seeds some moisture before the heat of summer. Once established, wildflowers are quite drought tolerant.

### **Maintenance:**

Yearly maintenance is an essential part of any wildflower garden and is the key to an effective, long term planting. There are four main areas of maintenance to consider: weed control, reseeding, fertilization and fall mowing.

Reseeding an established wildflower garden may mean the addition of a few new varieties to add continual interest, or it may consist of a large amount of seed to fill in empty or weeding spaces. The addition of annuals, seeded in spring will add fresh colour throughout the summer. When reseeding, remember to keep the newly planted seed moist for at least 4 to 6 weeks.

Continual weed control should be kept up by removing undesirable plants as soon as they are noticed. Weeds are much more apparent in a smaller wildflower garden than in a larger meadow and so one must be more vigilant in a smaller area.

In soils with poor fertility a yearly application of an organic based fertilizer, such as 8-12-6, will help encourage continual flowering. One should keep in mind that whatever fertilizers the wildflowers also fertilizes the weeds.

A yearly fall mowing after the majority of the plants have gone to seed, maintains a neat appearance and helps to spread the seed for future flowers. To achieve this, the plants should be mowed to a height of 4-6" around the middle of October.

Wildflowers can provide a wonderful low cost alternative to the traditional landscape. Once established, they create a low-maintenance garden that offers hardy adaptable plants in a mixture of colours and displays.