

# Treeways

2018 - 5

## Restoring Wildflowers to Your Estate

It's for the beauty and the bees and the birds. It's so you and your property can become healthier, more alive. Creating spaces and reintroducing native wildflower species around where you live will make the environment we live in stronger and more resilient. It is a fact that the greater the diversity of species in a natural area, the more likely it will resist the shocks of storms, diseases, insects, or other calamities. Here's is a recipe that can work for you to restore some native wildflowers to your property.

1. Choose a location that has full sun on the margin or away from the mowed lawn. It should be possible to water the area occasionally if needed.
2. Mow area as low as possible in early spring.
3. Once the existing grass and weeds have greened up then treat with Roundup to kill the existing vegetation.
4. Let area weeds and grass regrow and retreat with Roundup. It is possible that it will take three treatments like this during the summer to adequately prepare for seeding in the fall.
5. Late fall usually about mid-November is seeding time – watch the weather. You do not want the seed to germinate in the fall, but rather the next spring and summer. Broadcasting seed just before freeze up is ideal.
6. Broadcast a wildflower seed mix at the rate recommended by your wildflower supplier and very lightly mulch with clean straw or peat moss. Moistened rice hulls or chainsaw sawdust can be used to bulk up the seed mix for easier and more even distribution. Starting with seed means that it will take 2-3 growing seasons to get good flowering of the new wildflowers. Using some potted transplants or smaller plugs can speed the process along and give you some flowering even in the first summer.
7. The first summer after seeding you should mow the wildflower area 2-3 times whenever the vegetation gets taller than 8-10" high but only mow down to a minimum height of 6". Water during dry periods.
8. Spot treat or pull undesirable weeds or grasses not in the wildflower mix.
9. Enjoy!!!
10. Repeat #'s 7, 8, 9 as needed the second summer. Sunfish Lake has used Prairie Moon Nursery in Winona, MN for our seed supplier the last three years.

Also, consider planting native flowering trees that are beautiful in the spring (for bees, etc.) and that provide fruit later for birds and other critters. Many of these species are available at Arbor Day as small bare root specimens if you preorder them.

Wild plum  
Crabapple  
Elderberry  
Black cherry

Chokecherry  
Chokeberry  
Hazelnut  
Nannyberry viburnum  
Arrowwood viburnum  
Pagoda dogwood  
Gray dogwood  
Juneberry  
Hawthorn  
Serviceberry

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