

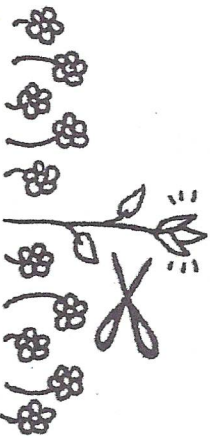
Expectations

Growing Native Grasses and Wildflowers from seed can take up to **3 years**. They are slow growing and spend a lot of their early lifetime growing deep roots. Plugs can be used instead but be cautious of nursery pesticide and herbicide use.



Hurdles

Due to the natives' slow growth, fast-growing weeds will need to be diligently eradicated and managed for those early establishment years.



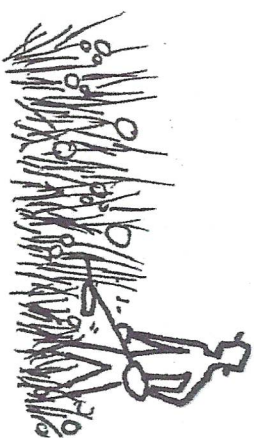
Once established, you will have perennial flowers that only need a bi / tri-annual disturbance, such as a high mowing or light disking.

Gettin' Started

Site Prep: Remove all weeds and create exposed soil. Note that tilling can expose dormant weed seeds and allow other invading weeds to easily establish.

Seeding: Seeds do best when dispersed between October-January. Frost actually helps them germinate! (Plugs are planted in Spring)

Seeds should not exceed a soil depth of 1/4 an Inch. Press them into the soil with a roller, ATV, or by walking over them.



Maintenance: Diligently keep an eye on weeds. Pull or Spot-Spray weeds during the first 3 years.

For bigger plots: Anytime any growth reaches 12-16 inches, mow/cut the whole plot down to a height of 6-8 Inches (No lower, unless dealing with Invasives) during the 3 years.

Get Involved!

Join your local Master Naturalists/Gardeners group for classes and discussions!



Register your yard with the WV Wild Yards Program!

NRCS If you have $\frac{1}{10}$ an Acre or More

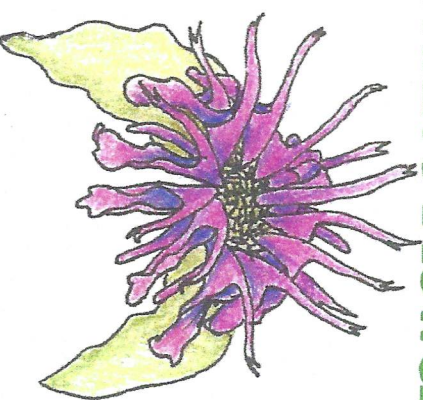
Natural Resources Conservation Service

you want to devote to Wildflowers, you may be able to apply for an **incentive program** with your local NRCS Office!

Contact the Biologists to learn more!

Growing

Native Flowers



Contact the Pollinator Biologists:

G. Lawinger or A. Mechtenberg
Gabrielle.R.Lawinger@wv.gov
Audrey.H.Mechtenberg@wv.gov

Choosing Plants

Consider the limitations of the land you want to plant in:

- Dry soil vs Wet?**
- Partial Sun vs Full?**
- Flat Land vs Sloped?**
- Garden or Field?**

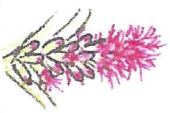
Then choose a variety of seed that will bloom in each season of Spring, Summer, and Fall!



OHIO SPIDERWORT



BUTTERFLY MILKWEED



BLAZING STAR

Be wary of generic hardware store 'Wildflower' mixes. They are largely inert material and have many Annual Non-Native flowers that die off every year. **Native Seed Companies** have pre-made wildflower seed mixes that can be used for your land-type, just be sure to check that the species in the mix are native for your state/region!

You can check this using **BONAP's TDC Query** webpage or the **USDA Plant Database** webpage.

Contact the Biologists to learn more!