PRAIRIE MOON NURSERY®

GROWING YOUR PRAIRIE

A HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE



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Getting Started

Use this approachable guide to help you successfully establish a native plant community from a diverse seed mix. Find instructions for assessing the site and preparing the site, seeding, and managing a small area between 500 sq. ft. and 1/4 acre. *For larger areas or interseeding projects, refer to Growing Your Prairie.*

1. SET EXPECTATIONS

Establishing a prairie from seed is a labor of love; patience and persistence are essential. It typically takes 3-5 years to see the full extent of diversity in bloom. Use the "sleep, creep, leap" slogan to know what to expect your prairie to look like in its first few years. Once your prairie is established, dynamic blooming layers will continue to unfold year after year, delighting the eye and welcoming wildlife.

2. MAKE YOUR PLAN

- SELECT A SITE PREP METHOD

Most sites require an entire growing season devoted to preparing the soil for a native seed mix. **This is the most important step of establishing a new planting.**

- ASSESS YOUR SITE CONDITIONS FOR A SEED MIX

Familiarize yourself with the growing conditions of your planting site. Consider: What is currently growing there? What is the size of the site, in square feet or acres? How many hours of sunlight does this area get during the summer months? What is the soil texture and how long does it retain moisture? Is erosion a concern? Pages 6-7 will assist with your site assessment.

- SELECT A SEED MIX

The details from your site assessment will directly inform which native seed mix will be best for your site.

- SELECT A SOWING TIME

Consider the differences between a late Fall/early Winter or Spring sowing.

- ACTIVATE YOUR PLAN

Pages 9-11 provide instructions on how to sow your seed mix and manage your planting in year one, two, and in the long-term.

*TIP! RECORD YOUR SITE NOTES ON PAGE 12

Setting Expectations: SLEEP, CREEP, LEAP!

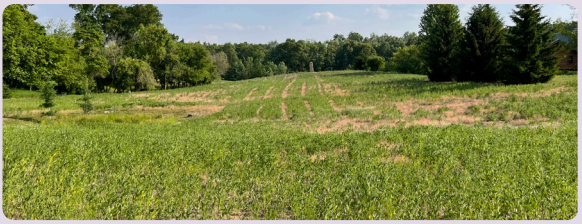
Prep Year

- Prepare the site by eliminating current vegitation (typically Spring through early Fall)
- Sow native seed mix (typically late Fall through Spring)



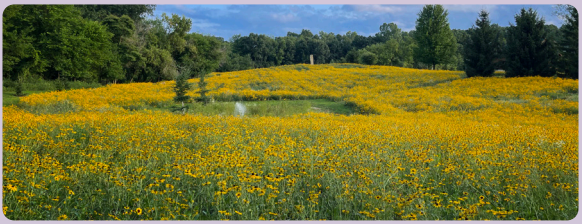
Year 1: SLEEP

- Some seeds will germinate, but groundcover will be sparse
- Mow consistently throughout growing season to reduce weed pressure and open the canopy for young plants
- Expect little to no blooms



Year 2: CREEP

- More seeds germinate
- Pioneer Flush: only a few fast-growing species bloom and appear to dominate i.e. Black-eyed Susan
- Strategic weed management may be needed via spot mowing



Year 3: LEAP

- Patience and persistence begin to pay off!
- Perennial species begin to replace Pioneer Flush with greater diversity
- Site management as needed with prescribed burns or Spring mowing



Site Prep

Site preparation is the most important step of establishing a prairie. Prior to seeding, all existing vegetation must be eliminated. The goal is to eradicate as many generations of weed species as possible, eliminating the competition and giving the native plants the best chance at success. We recommend spending a full growing season preparing your site for a late Fall or Spring planting. See page 8-9 for more details on the sowing time.

Do not underestimate the weed seed bank in your soil, which could have been accumulating for decades and can hold impressive amounts of dormant weed seeds. Even shallow soil disturbance can bring weed seeds to the surface to germinate with a change in soil temperature, or a brief exposure to light. These events can cause a flush of new weeds to germinate on a site that previously appeared to be clean. This is why we do not recommend tilling/cultivating the soil immediately before sowing your seed. Ideally, site preparation will eliminate the existing plants on site, but also spur the germination of the weed seed bank so they, too, can be eliminated. Although it is tempting to cut corners during this step, the time invested in site preparation is well spent.

***TIP! Septic sites** - Use site prep methods safe for your septic system: Sod removal + topsoil replacement, or herbicide treatments. *Consult your septic installer for details about your specific system.

Heavy clay sites - Never compact or cultivate **wet** clay sites to avoid over-compaction.

SELECTING A SITE PREP METHOD

Let the site dictate the pace: if you see a lot of new green growth 2-3 weeks after weed elimination, continue the site preparation methods. If the site remains brown and barren throughout the 2-3 weeks, that is a good indicator that the site is "clean" and you are ready to sow!

Sod Removal:

Removing turfgrass/lawn sod with a gas-powered or manual sod cutter.



Time Frame	Notes:
Right before seeding (Spring or late Fall)	• Ideal for small turfgrass lawns with low weed pressure • Gas-powered and manual sod cutters are available for rent from many home improvement stores; manually removing sod requires significant labor • Can be used as a quick Spring planting site prep method. By removing the top few inches of soil, most of the weed seed bank is eliminated • It is easier to cut sod when soil is moist

Smothering:

Covering soil surface with non-transparent material which starves vegetation of light. Black plastic, heavy tarps, or wood paneling can all be used for smothering.



Time Frame	Notes:
Over a full growing season (Spring through early Fall)	• Ideal for sites with low weed pressure. Not as effective for sites with aggressive or invasive weeds • The chosen material must be properly secured • Ideally, smothering is done in intervals (ie. 4-5 weeks "on" and 1-2 weeks "off") See details here • Lawns take less time to smother, usually 2 months after a close mowing

Solarizing:

Covering the soil surface with clear plastic, heating the soil enough to cook vegetation and weed seeds. Plastic should be durable and UV-stable.



Time Frame	Notes:
Over a full growing season (Spring through early Fall)	• Ideal for sunny sites with low weed pressure • Must be done Spring through Summer • Burying the edges is the best way to secure your UV stable plastic material

Repeated Shallow Cultivation:

Disturbing the top layer of the soil (~2-4") with rototiller or cultivation implements. Initially produces flush of weeds by disturbing seed bank; cultivation must be repeated throughout the growing season.

Time Frame	Notes:
Continued over most of the growing season (Spring through late Summer)	• Ideal for larger areas that are not sloped and/or prone to erosion • Aggressive weeds may require cultivation over 2 growing seasons • Do not work wet soils • **A single till is not sufficient.** Do not till immediately before planting; it is counterproductive • Stop cultivation in August to allow soil to settle before sowing (for Midwest and Northeast) • Cultipacker roller, tamper, or boots should be used to compact the loosened soil before seeding



* For especially weedy sites, combine repeated shallow cultivation + herbicide treatments for the best results

Herbicide:

Using a non-selective, post-emergent herbicide to kill current vegetation.

Time Frame	Notes:
Anytime during growing season (Spring through early Fall)	• Ideal for lawns, weedy, sloped, erodible, or septic sites • May require multiple applications during the growing season • Always read and follow product labels for detailed instructions and safety protocols • To determine how long you should wait to seed after herbicide application, review the product label for residual time



Assessing Your Site to Select a Seed Mix

Our seed mixes feature high sowing rates of 100 seeds or more per square foot. The diverse balance of native wildflowers and grasses will provide blooms throughout the growing season once mature.
Our 30+ seed mixes are designed to fit a variety of the most common site conditions, project goals, and growing themes. Ultimately, the right seed mix for you is one that aligns with your unique site conditions. Native plant species that naturally grow well in those conditions will establish faster and with better success, creating a tight-knit community with little to no need for amendments.

MEASURING YOUR PLANTING AREA

Prairie Moon's seed mixes are packaged to cover the following areas: 500 sq. ft., 1000 sq. ft., ⅛ acre, ¼ acre, ½ acre, and 1 acre.

To determine what size seed mix will provide the best coverage for your site, use the tools you have to measure the area of your site. Tools can include your feet, a yard stick, a tape measure, a measuring wheel, or Google Earth.
AREA (sq. ft.) = LENGTH (ft.) X WIDTH (ft.)
⅛ ACRE = 5,445 sq. ft.
¼ ACRE = 10,890 sq. ft.
½ ACRE = 21,780 sq. ft.
1 ACRE = 43,560 sq. ft.

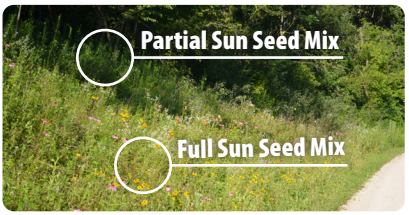


*TIP! YOU CAN USE A MEASURING WHEEL

To generally characterize your site, define your sun exposure and soil moisture.
Use the filters at prairiemoon.com/seed-mixes to find a mix that suits your site conditions.

SUN EXPOSURE

Classification	Hours of sunlight
Full Sun	**6 or more hours** of sun.
Partial	**3-6 hours** of sun.
Shade	**less than 3 hours** of sun.

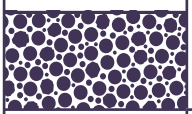
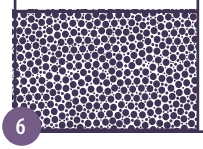


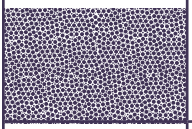
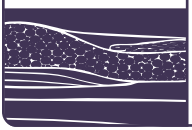
*TIP! YOU CAN OVERLAP TWO MIXES

SOIL MOISTURE

Soil moisture is influenced by the interplay of two major factors:
1. Soil texture
2. The position on the landscape

SOIL TEXTURE

Component	Characteristics	Seed Mix Suggestions
Sand 	• Largest particle size • Gritty, loose, light • Drains quickly	• Septic Safe • Shortgrass Dry Sand Prairie • Short & Showy
Silt 	• Medium particle size • Feels slippery/greasy when wet • Great water-holding capacity, but still drains well • Ideal garden soil	• Classic Prairie • Grand Diversity • Pollinator Palooza • PDQ (Pretty Darn Quick)

Component	Characteristics	Seed Mix Suggestions
Clay 	• Smallest particle size • Feels tacky when wet • Greatest water holding capacity, poorly drained • Slow water infiltration and air penetration • Should not be worked when wet, easily compacted	• Conquer the Clay • Classic Prairie • Mixed Height Prairie • PDQ (Pretty Darn Quick)
Humus 	• Highly composed of organic matter; spongy in texture, and dark in color • Usually a minor component (1-6%) of the soil, but has a huge impact on soil performance • Markedly increases water-holding and nutrient-holding capacity	• Short/Tall Sedge Meadow • Shortgrass/Tallgrass Woods Edge or Savanna • Shady Woodland

SLOPED LANDSCAPE POSITION

If your site stretches across varying topography, the direction the slope faces and how much sunlight reaches that space will influence how much moisture the soil will retain.



CLASSIFYING SOIL MOISTURE

Moisture Level	Description	Examples
Wet	Remains saturated, water table is at the surface, always wet	• Shorelines • Wetlands • Retention basins
Medium-Wet	Regularly stays saturated during Spring and Fall, but often dries mid Summer	• Low-lying areas • Detention basins • Flat clay soils that receive run-off
Medium (mesic)	Well-drained but holds a fair amount of water	• Loamy garden soil • Most north-facing slopes
Medium-Dry	Retains some water, but dries out quickly	• Sandy soils with some organic matter • Most soils on south-facing slopes
Dry (xeric)	Dries excessively fast	• Sandy upland areas • Well-drained south-facing slopes

Soil Amendments

Soil amendments are usually not necessary if you choose the right seed mix for your site conditions. Native plants have been thriving in tough conditions for ages. Trying to "pamper" these naturally hardy species with additional nutrients will generally have the opposite effect: the stems can become lanky and floppy. Not having to use an assortment of fertilizers and chemicals is one of the many benefits of incorporating native plants in the landscape!

There are some circumstances where it may be helpful to amend your soil.

Topsoil

In sites where the topsoil has been removed, such as new construction sites, you may opt to bring in new topsoil. New topsoil can include weed seeds that are best dealt with before sowing your seed mix. Consider spreading topsoil early

in the growing season and sowing a cover crop like Annual Oats or Regreen to stabilize the soil. These fast-growing cover crops create a competitive environment and make it difficult for weed species to establish. If weed pressure arises, treat it with herbicide or repeated shallow cultivation for a full growing season. Once the weed pressure has been eliminated, sow your seed mix at the next optimal time. If the site is sloped, consider erosion control strategies (Page 10).

Mycorrhizal Inoculum (available at prairiemoon.com)
In sites where topsoil is missing or highly disturbed from construction or erosion, it may be beneficial to incorporate Mycorrhizal Inoculum. The mycorrhizal fungi form a symbiotic relationship with most species of plants, encouraging healthier growth. Mycorrhizal Inoculum is best applied after seeding in the Spring. Follow this protocol for Spring sowing with inoculum.

Compost or Fertilizer
Adding fertilizer or nutrient-rich compost may be helpful, but often benefits fast-growing weed species more than your native plants. If you choose to amend your soil using home compost, be aware that compost that is not properly heated may carry viable weed seeds and plant diseases. This can create unwanted competition and weaken the native plants.

Lime
Agricultural lime (crushed limestone) may be a beneficial addition to extremely acidic soil (pH<5.5). If your area has acidic soil, reach out to a local University Extension office for information on testing and amending your soil pH.

Selecting a Sowing Time

For the Midwest and Northeast regions, seeds can be planted starting in late Fall and through Spring.

LATE FALL AND WINTER PLANTING **preferred*
Many prairie seeds must experience a period of cold and moist conditions called "stratification" before they are able to germinate. Sowing in late Fall and Winter allows for stratification to occur naturally. The freeze and thaw cycles will work the seed into the soil. Because of this, raking the seed into the soil is not necessary. Simply surface-sow all of the combined seeds.

Avoid sowing in early Fall; it is best practice to wait and sow seeds once overnight temperatures are frequently below freezing; you do not want any seeds to sprout at this time. Some seeds, like prairie grasses, can germinate in unseasonably warm Fall weather. If these seeds germinate the tender growth will not be mature enough to survive the first frost.

Winter is a great time to sow, even if there is already snow on the ground! The texture of the snow is important, though: seed onto fluffy, packable snow. Hard, iced-crusted snow acts as a barrier and makes the seed vulnerable to critters and being blown away in the wind. Seeds will settle into soft, wet snow (even when temperatures are below freezing). The sun warms the seeds enough to slowly melt the surrounding snow, which is oftentimes the first incorporated moisture of the stratification process.





SPRING PLANTING
Sowing in the Spring is great for grass-heavy mixes, but is less advantageous for forb (wildflower) establishment because the majority of forbs require overwintering (stratification) in order to sprout. Spring sowing will delay some forbs germination. Some plants may be in their first year of growth during Year 2 of your project, so regular management mowing may be necessary for the first 2 years, as opposed to just Year 1 (more details on Page 10). Spring sowing requires the large seeds to be raked lightly into the soil. Prairie Moon Seed Mixes are packaged with the large and small-sized seeds separate to make Spring sowing simpler.

PLANTING SEASONS

**Timeframes listed are based on seasonal conditions in the Midwest/Northeast*

FALL & WINTER (mid October-March)	• Naturally provides the cold & moist stratification needed to break seed dormancy of most seeds • No raking required; freeze and thaw cycles will work seed into the soil • Generally favors faster forb establishment
SPRING (April-June)	• Seed can be sown immediately if site prep is complete in Spring • Light raking needed to cover the large seed • Generally favors faster grass establishment

Sowing Your Seed Mix

Each seed mix order from prairiemoon.com includes a step-by-step brochure on hand sowing your native seed mix. For the purposes of this guide, we are focusing on broadcasting seed by hand. We do not advise using hand-crank or lawn seed spreaders for our seed mixes because it is challenging to control the output of different seed sizes. Prairie Moon seed mixes come with small and large seeds packaged separately because the different sized seeds are handled differently when spring planting. We encourage using a filler (carrier) material to bulk up your seed mix; this helps to ensure even seed distribution across the entire site. Combine filler material in a large container you have available (5-gallon buckets, plastic bins, a wheelbarrow, or on a large flat surface). Options for filler include rice hulls, sand, sawdust, peat moss, or similar materials.

Amount of Filler Material to Use:

~1 gallon of filler for 500 sq. ft
~2 gallons of filler per 1,000 sq. ft.
~5 gallons per ⅛ acre
~10 gallons per ¼ acre

***TIP! It takes ~1 hour for 1 person to hand sow seed over an ⅛ acre.**

HOW TO SOW YOUR SEED MIX BY HAND

1. Divide the planting area into 2+ equal sections using flags or a similar marker. The greater the number of sections, the more even your seed distribution will be.

2. For Fall/Winter sowing: Combine all packages labeled with "Small Seed" and "Large Seed" and mix thoroughly.

2. For Spring sowing: Combine all packages labeled "Large Seed." Set aside the "Small Seed" package until step 6.

3. Divide the seed mix into as many sections as you marked off in Step 1.

4. Moisten the filler material (rice hulls, sand, sawdust etc.), being careful to not over-moisten. It should be damp, but not saturated enough to form clumps. Aim for a mealy consistency.

5. Thoroughly mix each part of the divided seed mix with slightly moistened filler material in a your chosen container or flat surface.

6. For Fall/Winter sowing: Using one part of the seed-filler mixture per section of the planting area, hand broadcast and leave it on the soil or snow surface. You are simply scattering the seeds on the soil surface, think "feeding the chickens."

6. For Spring Sowing: Using one part of the "Large Seed" and filler mixture per section of the planting area, hand broadcast and lightly rake the seed into the soil. Then follow steps 3-6 for the "Small Seed" package and surface sow. You are simply scattering the seeds on the soil surface, like"feeding the chickens." After sowing small seeds, compact the soil after this step using your feet, tamper, lawn roller, or cultipacker.











EROSION CONTROL METHODS

For sites with a higher risk of erosion due to soil texture, disturbance, or slope consider an erosion control method.

• **Establish a temporary cover crop** that can be mowed down prior to seeding. Annual Oats are a great option for a temporary cover crop in USDA Zones 3-6. Annual Oats can be sown in Spring, Summer, or early Fall. In USDA Zones 7 and up, oat seeds will overwinter, so prevent re-seeding by mowing down the cover crop before the seedheads are mature. See our website for details and more cover crop options.

• **A light layer of seed-free straw** (often sold as pure straw) can be spread over the newly seeded area. Straw will also help retain moisture in the Spring.

• **A biodegradable mesh netting** can be laid over the newly seeded area. Many of these products are designed for grass seeding. Choose a product with wide enough openings for your prairie plants to grow through. Search for loose-weave straw mats or Geo-Jute for especially difficult sites.

For either "Top Dressing" option (straw or biodegradable mesh netting), make sure that sunlight is able to pass through much of your erosion control cover. Seeds need light to germinate, and sunlight to warm up the soil quickly in the Spring.

Managing Your Planting

Once established, your planting can become quite low maintenance, but not zero maintenance. The first growing season will require the most management and care. Weeds and thatch build-up will require active long-term management.

YEAR 1 MANAGEMENT: MOWING AND WATERING

Consistent management during the first year provides the best opportunity for your planting to develop into a diverse and resilient plant community. Avoid disturbing the soil. We do not recommend pulling weeds in Year 1. Pulling weeds can bring more weed seeds to the surface and it disturbs the juvenile root systems of your native plants.

MOWING IN YEAR 1

We encourage mowing or trimming throughout the first growing season after seeding. Mowing opens the canopy and allows sunlight to reach the slow-growing perennials. It also keeps fast-growing weeds from shading out the young native plants and reduces the amount of weed seeds produced. We suggest waiting until vegetation reaches about 8-10 inches, then cutting it down to 4-5 inches. Continue this mowing cycle for the entire first growing season (Spring - early Fall). A lawnmower at the highest setting or string trimmer works for most small plantings.

***TIP! A dull mower blade can fray young plants; a sharp mower blade is best for a clean cut.**

WATERING IN YEAR 1

Many new prairies are established successfully without any supplemental water, but if possible, it will help your seeds germinate faster and establish a more resilient native cover in Year 1. As drought tolerant as many of our native plants are, young plants do not have large root systems to access deeper water reserves. In this juvenile stage, your planting will benefit from supplemental watering if the weather is dry. During the early stages of seed germination, and while the soil is still largely bare, water every 2-3 days if there is no rainfall. At this stage, you just need to water long enough to keep the upper layers of soil moist. By the end of Spring/early Summer, water once per week during dry weather, but water more deeply to encourage your plants to grow deep roots. By the time the weather starts to cool in early Fall you can stop watering.

***TIP! Caution: watering more frequently than recommended promotes plant diseases and risks drowning young seedlings.**

YEAR 2 MANAGEMENT: CREEP

This is the "Creep" year of "Sleep, Creep, Leap." Top growth will continue to grow and develop, with some Pioneer Flush species setting flowers. Spot-mow or selectively trim particularly weedy patches within the planting.
Spring installations from the previous year may benefit from additional mowings to keep all the species at roughly the same growth rate.

A watering regimen is not typically necessary for this year. If severe heat or drought conditions persist, watering the site deeply can benefit the plants. At the end of season 2, if the top growth is plentiful - burn! If plant material is sparse, wait to see what next year brings.

When weedy plants pop up, it's best to eliminate them promptly to prevent further spread. Pulling, spot mowing/cutting, and careful direct herbicide applications can be effective weed management depending on the weed species.

YEAR 3+ LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT: MOWING OR BURNING
Weeds and **thatch** build-up will require long-term management.

BURNING FOR LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT
Our seed mixes are designed to imitate prairie and savanna ecosystems, which are fire-dependent. Prescribed burns reduce thatch build-up and woody plant encroachment, while enhancing species diversity and soil health.

A burn regimen can typically start at the end of season 2 and can be done once a year as often as the site can carry a fire. If the top growth is plentiful - burn! If the plant material is sparse, wait and see what next year brings.

Burning may not be suitable for all sites. Plantings on septic systems, close to buildings, or in urban areas are some instances when a prescribed burn is not possible in your site. We encourage you to seek out local information on how to conduct a burn safely and effectively. For further guidance, check local regulations and consult restoration groups like the Prairie Enthusiasts or the Tallgrass Prairie Center.

MOWING FOR LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT
If burning is not permitted in your site, you can mow/trim your planting in Spring. This will reduce thatch build-up and open the canopy for new growth. Mowing can be done annually for aesthetic considerations or every 2-3 years. We recommend leaving the dry, senesced vegetation over the Winter; it supports insects and wildlife. Removing the thatch every year could eventually deplete soil nutrients. If mowing annually, consider leaving the cuttings on your planting to naturally decompose and put nutrients back into the soil.

REAPING REWARDS

Establishing a prairie requires care, attention to detail, and time. We encourage you to appreciate the growth of your planting through the seasons and over the years. While immediate gratification may be limited, the long-term rewards are layered and ever-changing. Happy planting!

FAQs

• How should I store my seed mix until planting time?
Most seeds can be stored dry in a sealed container at room temperature until planting time. Seeds can remain viable for many years if stored in consistent and cool temps. If items have a pink note on the front of the package, the item should be stored in the refrigerator at 33-38° until planting.

• When will my seeds germinate?
Seeds need time and certain conditions to germinate, so soil temperatures and moisture are factors to keep in mind. Even as air temperatures rise, the soil temperature needs time to catch up, and it may take more than a few good rains to see your planting area green up. If the weather has been rather dry, consider watering and covering your planting in a light layer of seed-free straw. Even the pioneer species will likely not fill in until mid-late Summer, so it's not realistic to gauge the success of a planting in early Spring. Remember: Sleep, Creep, Leap!

• How do I know which plants I'm seeing?
Young plants can be difficult to identify and may look quite different from their mature form. Identifying emerging plants is part of the excitement of planting a mix, but it's best to wait until the plants have developed their distinguishable features. Plant identification apps and books can help you determine what plants you are seeing. It may be difficult to differentiate weeds and desirable plants. Refrain from pulling weeds around young plants, as it disturbs the soil and brings up more weed seed.
Resources for plant identification
- Plant Identification Websites: University of Missouri Weed ID Guide • MO Plants plant ID • MN Wildflowers plant ID
- Photo Identification Applications: Seek by iNaturalist • Google Lens

• How can I protect my new planting from deer/rabbits?
Tender young plants can be palatable to herbivores. We recommend using physical barriers, applying Liquid Fence products, or hanging Deer Tape around your planting to reduce browsing.

• Can I use a lawn seed spreader or hand-cranked spreader to sow my seed mix?
These seeders will not work well with native seed mixes, since the larger seeds tend to plug the device while the smaller seeds flow too quickly. We recommend hand sowing the seed (Page 9).

• Should I overseed my planting?
It is normal to see patches of bare soil during the first growing season, so we encourage waiting until the end of the 2nd growing season before deciding to add more seed to your newly planted area. Putting down too much seed can create a planting that is too dense and crowded to thrive. If washouts, severe erosion, or large bare spots occur in your planting, then overseeding those areas is appropriate.

• Could the seed mix be artificially stratified in the refrigerator?
No, we do not recommend artificially stratifying seed mixes; we only recommend this for individually packed species. To break seed dormancy, sow the seeds outdoors in Fall/Winter to allow for natural cold stratification. When you have a mix of species and germination codes, premature spouting can be an issue with artificial cold stratification. You also run into issues of mold. Many of the grasses that you usually would not stratify often include extra chaff with the seed. Chaff is highly susceptible to mold in a moist and enclosed space, like a bag in the refrigerator.

• Will birds eat my seed?
Birds and other critters may consume a few seeds, but Prairie Moon Nursery seed mixes have very high seeding rates to compensate for some loss and will still grow well even if birds do eat a few seeds.
Sowing onto bare ground in late Fall or Winter: Ideally, your native seed is planted in the late Fall and will be soon covered with snow. Even if snow isn't in the forecast, the repeated freeze-thaw cycles work the seeds into the ground, protecting them from birds.

Sowing onto snow: If you sow your seed onto packable, wet snow, the dark seeds quickly melt their way into the snow, soon followed by the smaller seeds. Once under the snow, the seeds are safe from birds.
Sowing onto bare ground in late Spring: Large seeds should be lightly raked into the soil. This protects them from predation. Small seeds are surface sown, but they are too small to be of interest to birds and other critters.

Still Have Questions?

We are happy to talk with you about your project and answer any questions that were not addressed here.
507-452-1362 | info@prairiemoon.com

Winona, MN 55987
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My Site Notes

SITE PREP METHOD: _____

SITE CONDITIONS

- soil moisture: _____
- sun exposure: _____
- soil type: _____

SEED MIX: _____

SOWING TIME: _____

MANAGEMENT PLAN: _____

My Site Plan

(plot your future prairie here)


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