



Protecting our Pollinators

Stages of a Wildflower Meadow

First Year



Repetitive Mowing

A wildflower meadow must be continually mowed down during its first growing season to help the flowers establish strong roots. When the flowers are cut at the stem, all the energy and nutrients from the sun and soil will go into the roots which strengthens the plants' roots underground. Keeping a meadow mowed is also a good way to allow the sun to warm the ground in the spring and help germinate the seeds. Even though we can't see any results during the first year of meadow growth, it is the most important stage for the future of meadow success.

Second Year



Minimal Mowing

Once the wildflower roots have been well established, the meadow must be mowed down first thing in the spring of the second growing season. The wildflowers and native grasses will start to take over above ground as the roots are well established from the previous year. By mid to late summer, you will notice some flowers in bloom and there will be some colour in the meadow. Some of the first flower species to show themselves are summer and fall blooming flowers such as Black-eyed Susan, Bergamot, Purple Coneflower and Aster.

Third Year



Mature Meadow

In the third year of growth, the wildflower meadow will be well established and mature. The perennial species in the meadow are now rooted deep underground and will come back each year. The combination of wildflowers and native grasses will work together to prevent weeds and other undesirable plants from growing. A mature wildflower meadow needs very little maintenance to stay healthy for continuing years.

