

# Native Seeding Guidelines

## Caring for the Seed

Keep the seed in a cool, dry, site like a dry basement, until planting time. If cold stratification is desired you will need to mix the seed together with an equal part of sterile sand, sawdust, vermiculite and then wet the mixture until it is very damp but not dripping wet. Store at 30-38 degrees F for 15 – 120 days making sure you check for mold occasionally. If you find mold, either store it colder or dry it down and plant immediately.

## Preparing the Site

Removing weeds before you plant is essential to a successful native planting. You may try different methods such as:

- Use a vegetation killing herbicide (Roundup<sup>®</sup>) at least two times.
- Cover the area with black plastic, cardboard, or mulch for one growing season.
- Rototill the area at least every month for at least one entire growing season.
- A combination of the above.

When ready to seed, divide the site in four to eight segments to evaluate seed application and to make sure there is accurate seed distribution.

## Planting the Seeds

Plant the native seeds before June 15th or after October 15th for the best results. Soil to seed contact is necessary but no deeper than ¼ inch, for germination, so prepare the soil prior to planting. Soil amendments can be used such as lime, fertilizer or organic matter. If you choose to water your plot, do it consistently until germination is complete-about 3 weeks.

## Mixing the Seeds

For hand-broadcasting, mix the seed with sterile sand, sawdust, vermiculite or other similar type of product in a sterile pail or garbage can. Your bulk media and seed should mix at a rate of 1 to 5 gallons of dry measure for every thousand square feet of the seeded area. Make sure you continue to mix the media and seed to ensure the heavier seeds do not settle out.

It would be best to divide out the site into equal portions and plant conservatively one at a time. This plan will allow you to adjust your rate so that you do not run out of seed. If any seed remains go back and plant in the opposite direction.

## Caring for the Planting

You will need to consider different methods depending on the size of your site to control the weeds after planting. Larger sites will require several key mowings the first two years. Mow at 6-12" in height just as the weeds flower or when they exceed a height of 3 feet. Be careful not to mow too often or too short as it can be hard for the native plants, plus it trains the weeds to grow short and bushy. You may burn the area in late April after 2 growing seasons.



250 W. Adams Street  
Waterman, IL 60556-0218  
Phone: 815-264-3322  
Fax: 815-264-3324  
Toll Free: 800-833-2290  
[www.MTP78.com](http://www.MTP78.com)