

# TimberPine Inc.

## Wildflower/ Prairie Grasses

### Care Instructions



**Overview** - Maintenance is the essential ingredient in the creation of a successful wildflower and prairie grass planting. The site must be inspected regularly during the growing season to determine if growing expectations are being met. Listed are the conditions most effecting the success of wildflowers and prairie grasses.

**Reseeding** - Reseeding may be required to insure annual color and to cover areas that were bare after the initial seeding. Unlike turf grasses, it takes far longer for wildflowers and prairie grasses to fill in bare areas which gives weeds a chance to become established if reseeding doesn't occur each year.

**Weed Control** - Weed control is the biggest problem facing wildflower and prairie grass establishment and one that has no easy solution. Weed seeds are present in many situations and lie dormant, but viable for long periods of time. A weedy area converted to wildflowers and prairie grasses will have a large reservoir of weed seeds in the soil, ready to germinate when conditions are favorable. Weed control is paramount in two phases - as part of site preparation prior to planting, and as an important component to the post-germination maintenance program. A monthly program of weed control is essential to insure a satisfactory display of wildflowers and prairie grasses year after year. Weeds should be eliminated as soon as they are recognized, either by pulling, spot spraying with a general herbicide or by selective cutting with a string trimmer.

**Fertilization** - Fertilization is only required if the soil is very sandy or poor in nutrients. Fertilizers encourage weed growth and lush foliage instead of flowers. If soils need amending you should have them tested then add organic matter such as compost or peat moss. This not only provides nutrients to the soil but adds beneficial microorganisms.

**Watering** - All seeds, including wildflowers and prairie grasses need ample moisture to germinate and to develop into healthy seedlings. Soaking the planted areas thoroughly and maintaining consistent moisture for 4-6 weeks, then gradually reducing the watering, will obtain the best results. In non-irrigated sites, plant in spring or ideally between May 15 and June 15. It is important that the site gets approx 1/2 inch of rainfall per week and more in arid or extremely dry conditions. If weeds are present they may benefit from the extreme moisture and may become dominant in some situations.

**Mowing and Cleanup** - If a neat appearance is desired after the wildflowers have gone to seed, mow them to a height of 4-6 inches. Remove any mulch or debris that has accumulated during the year and disturb the soil surface in any bare areas in preparation for fall reseeding. Reseed at normal application rates.



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**Wildflower and Prairie Grasses are a great addition to any landscape. If you are willing to put in the effort, you will get a great result.**

*Call us if you have questions about your wildflowers and prairie grasses areas.*

