

THE PLANT KINGDOM GREENHOUSE & NURSERY, INC.

620 FIDELER ROAD

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99712

907-45-PLANT (907-457-5268)

OPEN 10AM-7PM EVERYDAY OF THE SUMMER!

# *PLANTING AND MAINTAINING TUNDRA FLOWER MIXES FROM THE PLANT KINGDOM*

The planting area should be as weed free as possible. Tundra Flower mixes give the most pure display of color when planted in areas of newly disturbed soil that is devoid of vegetation such as areas of mineral soil around a building site. However, they can also add a tundra meadow look to already existing plant habitats. The varieties in these Tundra Flower mixes are a combination of approximately half Interior Alaska-hardy perennials and half annuals that do well in this climate.

Late fall planting is recommended (late September, early October). Spread a garden fertilizer such as 8-32-16 at a rate of 3-5#'s per one hundred square feet of planting surface. Lime may be added also at this time if the planting area appears to have a low soil pH (indicated by soil test or by observed acid soil loving native vegetation). Next, spread the flower seed at a rate of 6-8 oz. per 1000 square feet of planting area. For efficient and conservative use of seed, we prefer spreading flower seed by hand. It is advisable to mark out a rough grid on the planting surface to assure that a consistent planting rate is maintained. Plant late enough in the fall so that seed will not germinate, but plant before significant snowfall.

In most cases, moisture from spring snowmelt and rain are sufficient for seed germination. The first show of color generally is about the third week in June.

We recommend mowing the Tundra Flower patch in mid September and then spreading 8-32-16 fertilizer again at the rate of 3-5#'s per one hundred square feet of planting area. The hardy perennials in our mixes do not usually reach their optimum size until the third season, and so at least for the first two Septembers after the original planting, we spread an annual mix on the mowed and fertilized area at a rate of 4-6 oz. per one hundred square feet. If you wish to keep an annual presence with the accompanying constant color show, we recommend spreading an annual mix every September. The perennials in our mixes have been chosen according to bloom time to assure a sequential show of color. However, annuals intermixed will always intensify this color.

Weed control is very important, at least until perennials become established to the extent that they can out-compete unwanted plants. Where practical, the most effective weed control is physical removal of unwanted plants as soon as they can be identified and before they go to seed.