

Planting Shrubs or Trees

Choose the Right Location:

Sunlight: Select a site with appropriate sunlight (full sun, partial shade, or shade) based on the plant's needs.

Soil: Ensure well-drained soil. Amend with compost if necessary.

Prepare the Soil:

Clear the area of weeds and debris.

Loosen the soil to a depth of 6-12 inches

Planting:

Dig a hole twice as wide and as deep as the root ball.

Place the plant in the hole, ensuring the root crown is level with the soil surface.

Backfill with soil and gently press to remove air pockets.

Watering:

Water thoroughly after planting.

Keep the soil moist but not waterlogged for the first few weeks.

Mulching:

Apply a 2-3 inch layer of mulch around the plant, keeping it away from the stem.

Mulch helps retain moisture and suppress weeds.

Maintenance:

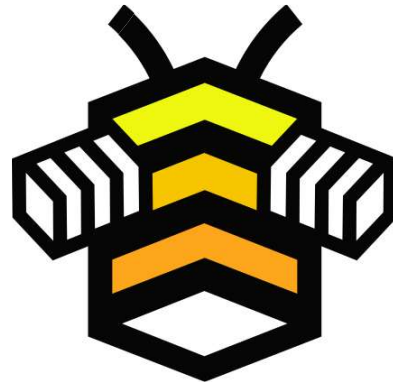
Water regularly during the first growing season.

Once established, native plants typically require less water and maintenance.

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Did you know?

Planting native plants in the fall allows roots to establish before winter, leading to stronger growth in spring. Cooler temperatures and increased rainfall reduce stress on young plants, ensuring a healthier start.



Education

Advocacy

Habitat

Vancouver Bee Project is a community-supported 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Thank you for planting native pollinator plants!
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Native Plant Care Quick Guide



Compiled By



VANCOUVER BEE PROJECT

Planting Wildflowers



Here are some care instructions to help your planting thrive. For information on planting wildflowers from seed check out Vancouver Bee Project's Wildflower Seed Quick Guide and Get Rid of the Grass Guide or learn more at:

Meadow Prep



Plant Care



General Pollinator Plant Care

For in ground plants water each week April-October: Deeply soak the root zone with 1-2 gallons of water once per week during the first two summers and other dry periods. Once established, most native species are drought-tolerant and require minimal watering. However, during dry periods, provide supplemental irrigation to ensure adequate moisture. For pollinator plants in containers water weekly; however during dry periods provide supplemental water to ensure adequate moisture. Water container plants thoroughly, allowing excess water to drain out of the bottom of the containers.

Mulch around the base of each pollinator plant: Apply a layer of organic mulch around the base of the pollinator plant to suppress weeds, conserve soil moisture, and regulate soil temperature. Use mulch materials such as wood chips, shredded bark, or compost, and avoid piling mulch against plant stems. Mulch container plants with wood chips or shredded wood.

Pruning and maintaining: Native pollinator plants generally require minimal pruning. Deadhead spent wildflowers to encourage additional blooms. Remove dead or diseased foliage, spent flowers, and any invasive weeds that may compete with the plant and trees for resources. Prune as needed to maintain the desired shape and size of the plants.

Support structures (as needed): Some plants may benefit from support structures such as stakes or cages to prevent them from flopping over or becoming damaged in wind. Install these structures as needed to provide support without causing damage to the plant or adjacent tree.

Fall is the best time of year to plant native wildflower seeds. Begin by selecting a site with well-draining soil that receives at least six hours of sunlight per day. Once you have your location, clear the area of existing vegetation, such as grass or invasive plants. This step is crucial to give your wildflowers a healthy start by eliminating competition for nutrients and space. Appropriate meadow preparation means attacking and killing weeds and weed seed stock that already exists in the ground. This step can take 12-18 months for adequate preparation. For more details check out the Meadow Prep QR code for methods.

Once the site has been adequately prepared, prepare the soil surface by loosening it to a depth of approximately 1 inch. You can use a rake or a garden tiller, but avoid turning the soil too deeply, which can bring weed seeds to the surface. Native wildflower seeds are small and need good soil contact to germinate. Bulk up the seed mix by adding 1-2 times sand or soil to the seed mix. This step helps you see where the seeds are landing and prevents overcrowding in any one spot. Scatter the seeds evenly over the prepared area, aiming for a density of about 20-30 seeds per square foot. Lightly tamp the seeds into the soil with your hands or a piece of cardboard, but do not cover them with more soil, as they need sunlight to sprout.

Water the seeded area gently but thoroughly, ensuring the soil is consistently moist until germination occurs. Avoid overwatering, which can wash seeds away. With patience, your native wildflower meadow will begin to bloom, providing a haven for local bees and other pollinators.