



[FACT SHEET]

Annual and Perennial Floral Meadows



Annual meadows live for one year



The lifespan of a perennial meadow is more than 2 years

Timing

- Annual mix is best sown in late March/early April.
- Perennial mix is best sown in late September/early October.

Seed bed preparation

- Measure out the site using the following tools:
 - Measuring tape;
 - Spray paint; and
 - Marker canes.
 - Treat the area with herbicide to ensure the soil is weed free. Recommended chemicals are glyphosate based herbicides.
- Once the existing vegetation has died off, cultivate the site using one of the following tools dependent on the size of the site:
 - Tractor mounted rotovator;
 - Hand operated rotovator; or
 - Roller.
 - A seedbed that is weed-free allows the desired seed to grow without the competition for nutrients, space and sunlight.
 - To firm up an area, tramp the soil using your heels or roll if the area is large.
 - Rake the area level, and break any large soil clumps with the back of a rake.
 - Aim to achieve a uniformly firm and level soil to depth of 12.7cm (5 inches).



Measuring seed

- Calculate the quantity of seed required. Use 3 grams x total square metres, e.g. 3 x 200m² = 600g seed required.
- Use scales to weigh out the seed.
- As the seed is very fine, a carrier agent needs to be mixed with the seed to ensure even sowing. Dry, fine sand is excellent for this.
- Place in a bucket and mix through your carrier agent at a ratio of four times carrier to seed.

Sowing the seed

- Even large areas can be easily sown by hand.
- Seed mixes should be sown rate of 3 grams per square metre.
- To ensure that the seed is scattered evenly, sow half lengthways and the remaining half widthways.

Maintenance

- With the right preparation of the site, weed control can be kept to a minimum.
- When a seed bed is prepared, the weed seedlings might germinate more quickly than the meadow seedlings. If this occurs, you can cut the area with a mower, which is set at a high level, thus topping the weed seedlings but avoiding the meadow seedlings.

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- Any unwanted plants that appear during the growing season should be removed before flowering to prevent seed formation.

End of season

- Annual meadows can be mown between September and December.
- It is advised to cut perennial meadows and leave the clippings for a couple of weeks before removing. This helps build up a store of perennial meadow seeds for the following year.
- All clippings must eventually be removed to help reduce soil fertility. This also creates a more tidy finish.

Equipment

- Rotary or flail mowers can be used depending on the height and density of the vegetation to be cut.

