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Wildflowers are varieties and species of flowers that have not been developed through practiced cultivation and selection. They have the same appearance as native species found around the world, and can grow outside of their native habitat. Although they are referred to as wildflowers, they can be sown intentionally to create a wildflower garden or meadow.

The mixes offered by Johnny's can be planted in late spring, early summer, or late fall. For a fall sowing, wait until the soil temperature is too cool to allow seed germination (below 40°F/4.4°C). Seeds sown in the fall will remain dormant until the following spring.

Successful establishment of a wildflower garden or meadow involves preparing your site properly.

- Choose a sunny location for the majority of the mixes. The Shade Mix, however, prefers part shade.
- Prepare the soil. Soil preparation and weed control are essential to the success of a wildflower planting. Wildflowers can grow compatibly with native and slow-growing grasses, but most pasture grasses eventually crowd out wildflowers. To clear the site of aggressive weeds, till the soil no deeper than 3 inches. (This avoids bringing additional weed seed to the surface.) Water the cleared soil to germinate dormant weed seeds. Once the weeds germinate, remove them. Till a second time, no deeper than 1 inch.
- Rake the soil to form shallow grooves.
- For large areas, the seeds of Northern Lights Mix, Butterfly and Hummingbird Mix, and Shade Mix should be mixed with sand at a ratio of 4 parts sand to 1 part seeds. These mixes contain seeds of vastly different sizes, and blending with sand helps ensure even distribution.
- To create a wildflower meadow using noninvasive grasses, we recommend using sheep fescue at the rate of 10 pounds per acre, or ¼ pound per 1,000 square feet. When using noninvasive grasses, there is no need to use sand, and do not alter the wildflower seeding rate.
- Plant the seeds. Evenly distribute the seeds across the surface of the ground.
- **When sowing in late spring or early summer:**
  - Lightly rake and gently tamp the soil to ensure good seed-to-soil contact. Seeds should be planted no deeper than ⅛ inch. For large areas, use a lawn roller without water to press seeds into the soil.
  - Water in the area and keep the soil moist to assist germination and seedling development.
  - Germination will occur over a period of 4 weeks.
- **When sowing in late fall:**
  - Do not rake. Do not mulch or cover.
  - Germination will occur over a period of 4 weeks, the following spring.
- Observe the planted area during the germination and seed development stages to ensure it receives adequate moisture, control weed growth, and spot-seed blank areas if necessary. Regular maintenance throughout the first year or two helps plants to become firmly established and reduces long-term maintenance. It can take several years for a wildflower planting to become well established.
- When plants are established and begin to bloom, they may require watering to prolong flowering.
- In the fall, when plants have dried and dropped their seeds, mow or cut the flower stalks back to 4–6 inches above the ground. This helps to distribute seeds and ensure healthy blooms next season.

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