

# Ready to sow your wildflower seeds?

Spring is here! If you have completed your site preparation as we covered in our [April issue](#) here are next steps.

First, prepare the seed bed by raking, thatching, or burning, so that about 50% of the soil surface is showing. The goal is to achieve good seed to soil contact. Removing all dead vegetation is not necessary. Dead stubble works as a good mulch to hold the seed in place. Lightly scarify soil surface with rake or thatcher. Do not turn up any more new soil, as this WILL bring new weed seeds to the surface. A roller may be used to firm the seed bed prior to seeding if necessary.

The seeding rate for most of our wildflower seed mixes is 10 lbs./acre or 5 oz./1000 square feet, so one can be understandably nervous about making sure that a “small” amount of the seed will actually cover the prepared seeding area. A carrier may be added to increase the bulk of the material sown. You may add as much or little carrier as you are comfortable. The carrier should be comprised of material relatively fine, uniform in size and easily mixable. Examples include sand, sawdust, vermiculite, rice hulls and kitty litter.

Follow these steps to prepare and sow your wildflower seed:

1. Place seed in a bowl or bucket.
2. Add as much of the carrier to the seed as you like.
3. Mix well.
4. Divide this mixture in approximately one half.
5. Place this half amount in broadcast seeder or place in smaller bucket to seed by hand.
6. Sow this seed over the entire site, back and forth.
7. Keep seed mixed well throughout sowing.
8. Sow remaining amount and cover the site perpendicular to the first pass.
9. Keep seed mixed well throughout sowing.

Remember that adding a carrier provides more volume to work with as you sow the wildflower seeds and following these steps will help to assure that you achieve good seed coverage.