



Smart Yards and Friends Festival Resources

Planting the Festive Pollinator Seed Mix

Due to the small fluffy seeds of many native grasses/wildflowers and the low volume of seeds used in small areas, a carrier material will need to be used to spread the seeds. Some types of carriers are pelletized lime, vermiculite, and cat litter. Mix the seed with the carrier in a 1:1 ratio based on volume. This will provide a more substantial product to spread. Also, mix flour with seed/carrier until the mix is white. This will allow you to see where the seed has already been sowed. You want to spread the mix evenly and not run out before the entire site is seeded.

If hand spreading, go over the area lightly the first pass to make sure that you have seed on the entire area. If you reach the end of the site and still have seed left, then go over the entire area again or concentrate on the areas that are not white. This should allow you to get an even stand. If using a hand broadcaster, prepare the mix in the same manner and spread. Again, it is advisable to go over the area lightly the first time to make sure there is enough seed. Slightly overlap the edges of the areas sowed on each pass.

If at the end there is seed left, adjust the opening of the broadcaster to try to make a complete pass over the area again. If possible, walk the areas where the edges overlapped. This should provide an evenly sowed site.

The Xerces society's information on site preparation
for wildflower establishment



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