Sowing Instructions

Annual Wildflowers live for one flowering season only and rarely return without being resown into cultivated ground. They can be successfully established on their own or added to a non-competitive meadow seed or wildflower meadow seeds mixture for extra first year colour.

When to sow: The best time to sow is when other plants are growing. This ensures ground conditions are correct for germination. Early spring and late autumn sowings do not usually require irrigation. Annual Wildflower seeds sown in the summer months may require watering for successful germination and establishment. Late winter sowings may take place on very free draining ground however, sowing at this time should be avoided on heavy clay and/or ground prone to waterlogging.

Seedbed Preparation: Produce a firm, weed free seedbed clear of large stones and any other debris. Rake or harrow over the surface to create a thin layer of fine soil (tilth) approximately 10-20mm deep.

Application Rate: Sow as a single stand at approx. 5 grams per sq/m.

Sowing: Split the total quantity of Annual wildflower seeds to be applied into two equal amounts.
Apply the first half over the entire area either by hand or by using a broadcast spreader.
Gently work most of the applied seeds into the loose tilth with a firm rake or harrow.
Apply the remaining seed in the same way and again, rake or harrow most of them into the tilth.
Finally, lightly roll or tread over the surface to squeeze the seeds and tilth down into the seedbed. This method ensures the seeds are evenly spread, set at different depths and in good contact with the soil. All of the above helps ensure the seeds are anchored firmly into position so as not to float away during heavy or persistent rainfall and to retain the correct moisture level for efficient germination.

Over-seeding: Into a meadow or grassed area. Cut the existing grasses as short as possible. Rake,scarify or harrow the area to expose the ground a little. Apply the seeds at 1 to 2 grams per sq/m in the same way as above and again roll, tread or consolidate the surface in any way possible to squeeze the seeds into intimate contact with the soil.

Germination Times: 2 to 4 weeks depending on soil temperature and available moisture. For seed simply scattered loose onto the surface germination may be uneven and significantly slower, particularly during periods of prolonged sunny, dry or windy weather, even with regular irrigation.

Irrigation: The seedbed must maintain a good level of moisture to allow germination to take place. This is particularly important during sunny and/or breezy weather where the seedbed can dry out very quickly. Failure is most commonly caused by seeds drying out as they begin to germinate. The sown area does not need to be flooded, simply damped down in the evenings just before sunset and again in the morning if possible. Irrigation is generally not required for early spring, late autumn or winter sowings unless adverse (dry) conditions prevail.

Emergence: Seedlings emerge at different times depending on a number of factors. Some species germinate and emerge faster than others. Often areas compacted by footprints emerge faster or slower than seeds emerging from looser soil. There is often a noticeable difference in emergence between areas sown in shade and those sown in full sun particularly in cooler months as the ground temperature will be very different if not warmed by direct sunlight. Other parameters to affect emergence are differences in soil depth, organic content, underlying rocks or boulders and quality or characteristics of subsoil. Generally, most annual wildflowers will establish within 3 to 4 months from a spring sowing, Autumn sown seeds will generally flower earlier than spring sown.