



## Planting Native Wildflowers in San Antonio, Texas

### **When to Plant Wildflowers in San Antonio, Texas.**

1. Prepare your planting site in August
2. Plant your wildflowers in September through November in San Antonio.

### **Where to Plant Wildflowers in San Antonio, Texas.**

1. Choose an area that gets a minimum of 8 hours of sunlight. Most wildflowers in Texas want full sun.
2. Choose an area that drains well where the soil is not compacted.  
-Wildflowers do not like standing water around their roots.

### **How to Plant Wildflowers in San Antonio, Texas.**

1. Choose wildflowers that are native to your region.
2. Prep the area by mowing as short as possible or lightly tilling (no more than 1" down so you don't stir up dormant weed seeds) to remove competing vegetation and expose soil.
3. Optional, but helpful: Mix wildflower seeds with "carrier" like coarse sand, or even potting soil, to help with even distribution.
4. Take half of the seed mixture and walk in one direction, scattering wildflowers seeds evenly by hand, as if you were tossing out feed to chickens.
5. Next, cross back in a perpendicular direction and scatter the rest of the seed as uniformly as possible.
6. Do not bury the seeds into the soil.  
-You may even be able to see many of the seeds on the ground and that is ok.
7. MAKE SURE wildflower seeds have good contact with the soil.  
- Walk over wildflowers to tamp them down with your boots (or you can rent a rollerpacker if you are planting a large area).

## How to Water Wildflowers in San Antonio, Texas.

**\*Sidenote:** While wildflower seeds will germinate based on natural rainfall, you will get best results when your wildflower area is kept moist for 4-6 weeks after planting. Hopefully San Antonio fall rain will arrive to help with the matter, but if not, learning how to water properly is important.

1. Water wildflower seeds lightly and frequently, this could mean daily, to prevent the topsoil from drying out.
2. Once seedlings germinate (sprout) reduce watering to 2-3 times a week, not letting soil dry out but not overwatering either. Adjust to rainfall.
  - 3. As wildflowers grow and become 1" to 2" in height, adjust to less frequent but deeper watering while allowing the soil to dry out somewhat in between waterings.
    - This allows for healthy development of the root system and also gets wildflowers use to relying on natural rainfall for irrigation.
  - 4. As wildflowers grow even larger, you can gauge if they need water if they show signs of distress (wilting, shriveling)
    - Discontinue supplemental irrigation as seasonal rains roll in.
  - 5. In elongated periods of drought, occasional supplemental irrigation may be needed.



## Maintaining Wildflowers in San Antonio, Texas.

1. Annual and biennial wildflowers take off the fastest and will be the majority of your "bloomers" the first year, but even they will be more profuse in blooms the following year if left to reseed.
2. Perennial wildflowers spend the first year growing their roots, and usually don't bloom until the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year.
  - Stick with them, the end result is amazing!
3. After the full bloom period is over, wait until at least half of any late-blooming wildflowers have dropped their seed before you mow the area or collect seeds.
  - This allows ample time for annuals and biennials to reseed themselves.
  - Seedpods of bluebonnets should be brown and dry before collecting.
4. Keep in mind that after about 3 to 4 years any annual wildflowers may start to decline, but perennials wildflowers will most likely keep getting stronger with more blooms.

Remember to have patience when it comes to wildflowers. Nature plays a big role in the success or failure of all wildflower plantings. Certain wildflowers take longer than others to germinate. Some perennial wildflowers grow thick roots the first year and bloom the second. You are planting this season for a beautiful blooming season in the future.