



2019 MONARCH-POLLINATOR MIX

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forest Resources

Mason State Tree Nursery

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Guidelines for planting Monarch and Pollinator seed, 2019

Fall Planting (recommended):

Fall is generally the best time to plant native forb and grass seed that are attractive to Monarch butterflies, bees and other pollinating species.

Step 1:

Earlier in the season (July, August) work the ground you intend to plant with some type of tillage tool to kill and eliminate the existing vegetation.

Step 2:

Continue to work the ground throughout the late summer/fall as new vegetation germinates. The idea is to have as “weed free” a seedbed as possible before planting your native Monarch/pollinator seed.

Step 3:

Late November or early December is the best time to plant the native seed. Broadcast the seed over the area and lightly rake or roll it in. For many of these species just rolling them into the ground will suffice for seed to soil contact. Avoid planting smaller seed too deep.

Spring Planting:

Spring planting can be done the same way as fall. It is recommended to control weeds the summer and fall before doing a spring planting. Most of the problems associated with spring plantings are a result of annual grasses overtaking the planting site during the summer. Spring plantings should be done before June to avoid hot temperatures and lack of rainfall.

Tips:

- Be patient! Native forbs and grasses will not appear on your planting site the first year. This is the nature of this species.
- Use something like “Roundup-TM” (glyphosate) at the recommended label rates to kill the existing vegetation and any vegetation that may germinate throughout the late summer/fall.
- Many of these native plant species need to go through a period of cold (stratification) before they will germinate.
- Use a mower the first year of planting to set back any annual grasses. Do not mow with a riding lawn mower as they cut too close to the ground. Use something that can mow at 8 to 10 inches in height.