



MONARCH-POLLINATOR MIX PLANTING GUIDELINES

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forest Resources

Mason State Tree Nursery

17855 N. County Road 2400E

Topeka, Illinois 61567

Phone: 309-535-2185

Guidelines for planting Monarch and Pollinator Seed

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.
- Before planting, 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.
- In the first year of planting, mow weeds and annual grasses at a height of 8 to 10 inches before they have a chance to set seed.