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## PLANTING & CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR (almost) NO MOW and MEADOW MIXES

**CALCULATE** the square footage of your site (length x width) to determine the amount of seed you need. Keep in mind that your mix may have a lighter application rate than conventional turf grass. Refer to the product label or our website for specific application rates. If applied too heavily, one species may crowd out another.

**PREPARE** soil as for a conventional lawn using the method of your choice. Add any necessary soil amendments such as lime, compost and Profile soil conditioner. An application of organic starter fertilizer is recommended. Smooth and firm the area to be seeded. Note that mixes containing flowers and herbs perform best when sown on bare soil. In the spring, plant after soil temperatures reach 50 degrees or warmer, the temperature required to trigger germination. In the fall, plant at least 6–8 weeks before your first anticipated hard frost (28 degrees for more than one hour).

**MIX** seed thoroughly to ensure even distribution. Divide amount of seed you need into two halves.

**DISTRIBUTE** half of seed over the entire area, then cross back in opposite directions to spread the second half of the seed either by hand or using a broadcast spreader. If you choose to top-dress the seed, do so very lightly (no more than ¼ inch). Successful seed germination requires even seed distribution and direct seed-to-soil contact. Do not bury seed.

**WATER to keep seed moist at all times during the germination period**—at least 3 weeks or until the seedlings are an inch or so tall. This may mean watering for brief periods three or more times per day, depending on weather conditions. For the following 3–4 weeks, continue to water daily to ensure survival of the seedlings. *Through the first growing season, gradually water more deeply but less frequently to encourage deep root growth.*

**WAIT** for sprouting of seedlings. Try to keep off tender planting for about 6 weeks or until vegetation reaches 3-4 inches tall. Initially, the stand will be thin, allowing room for growth. Your planting will be considered fully established after it has gone through one winter.

**MOW** or line trim at least once a year. **Grass and flower or flower-only mixes** should be mowed in late fall to a height of no less than 4 inches. Cuttings left in place will produce more prolific flowering during the next growing season. Remove cuttings by early spring to clear way for new growth. For **grass mixes**, mow at least twice a year to remove seed heads. Seed stalks form in late spring and will stand up to 12 inches tall; they should be mowed as they start to form. Mow grasses a second time in late fall to ensure a quick green-up in the following spring.

**OVERSEED** every 2-3 years to invigorate your planting. Enjoy!