
WHY ARE NATIVE PLANTS IMPORTANT?

California native plants have adapted over hundreds of thousands of years to the watersheds of our region. From the tops of the peaks to the edges of the streams, native plants grow in the very conditions that exotic plants must overcome with fertilizer, irrigation, and constant care. The critters, who call the rivers and creeks of Trinity County home, rely on the native vegetation for food, nesting and shelter while the plants rely on the critters for pollinating flowers and spreading seed.

Using native plants for erosion control, landscaping and streamside stabilization brings wildlife, birds and butterflies into your yard. Many insects, such as bees and butterflies, need native plants to meet their requirements for food and egg-laying. We all live in a watershed and eliminating native plant communities around human development and planting non-native plants has seriously impacted the creatures that live in these ecosystems.

So take this small sample of Hills of California Wildflower Mix and add it to your garden for a showy display next spring.



California Poppy

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Trinity County
Resource
Conservation District

HILLS OF CALIFORNIA WILDFLOWER MIX



Blue Flax

WHY NATIVES?

RIPARIAN STEWARDSHIP IN TRINITY COUNTY

Sponsored by
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Environmental Quality Incentive Program

ESTABLISHING WILDFLOWERS

A wildflower meadow is an excellent, low maintenance, ecological alternative to the traditional manicured turf grass landscapes. Most wildflowers prefer dry, sunny areas and do not compete well with established weeds and turf grasses. The best planting times are spring or fall, although seeds can be sown at the beginning of summer if they can be watered for the first 4 to 6 weeks.

☞ SITE PREPARATION

To establish wildflowers, it will be necessary for you to till (as shallow as possible or weed seeds will be brought to the surface), scarify the soil or strip the site of existing vegetation. Not only will this decrease competition with grasses and weeds, but it will roughen the soil surface to improve seed-to-soil contact.

☞ SEED APPLICATION

For small areas, sprinkle seeds evenly by hand. The site should be raked lightly, covering seeds at a maximum 2-3 times their thickness. To provide for an opti-



Blazing Star

Hills of California Wildflower Mix : California Poppy, Farewell-to-Spring (tall and dwarf), Chinese Houses, Mountain Garland, Globe Gilia, Bird's Eye Gilia, Showy Gilia, Tidy Tips, Mountain Phlox, Blue Flax, Miniature Lupine, Sky Lupine, Arroyo Lupine, Golden Lupine, Blazing Star, Baby-Blue-Eyes, Five Spot, Desert Bluebells, and Owl's Clover.

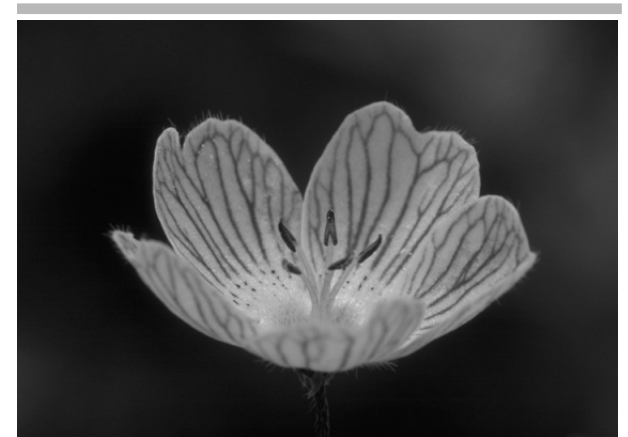
Seed mix purchased from Lerner Seeds: Seeds of California Native Plants.

mal micro-environment, seedlings, especially on cleared sites, should be mulched. Mulching conserves soil moisture, reduces soil temperature, and mitigates erosion.

☞ MAINTENANCE

Even though wildflowers are known for their tolerance to dry and droughty sites, moisture is a critical factor in their germination. If possible, they should be watered infrequently, but deeply until the stand is established. It may also be necessary to weed the area of undesired weed and grass species that may compete with the wildflowers. An annual mowing in the late fall neatens winter appearance, discourages woody growth, and helps disperse seeds. Do not mow too low, six inches is ideal.

ENJOY!



Baby Blue Eyes