

PREPARE

September – January: Pick a location for your meadow that is generally sunny and well-drained. Existing lawn areas or fields are ideal. The size of the meadow should be determined by how much space you are willing to dedicate to the project and your budget. As a guide, a one-quarter acre meadow would require approximately 2,700 wildflower plugs planted 2 feet on center.

February – Late March: Work with a landscape professional or reputable nursery that specializes in native plants to place an order for wildflowers that can be scheduled to arrive for installation in mid April – early May.

Late March – Early April: Begin preparing the meadow area by mowing it to a height of 2-3 inches. Continue to mow the project area until you are ready to install the wildflower plugs.



KELSEY LINGLE/STAFF

PLANT

Mid April – Early May: Once your wildflower plugs arrive, it may be tempting to lay out plants in neatly arranged rows, but clustering plants together while still paying attention to plant spacing will echo the more organic patterns found in nature. In addition, wildflowers planted in clusters with several plants of the same species within a few feet of each other will also help to attract more pollinators. Use a handheld auger (2" +/- in diameter) or shovel to open holes for your wildflower plugs. Then you can easily insert each plug in the hole and tamp the soil around it.



KELSEY LINGLE/STAFF

PRESERVE

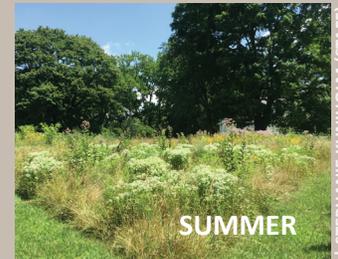
Early May – Early October: Once your wildflowers are planted, regularly inspect your meadow to ensure that invasive weeds are not colonizing the space. Hand pulling or cutting weeds below the height of native species should help to manage any invasives that may creep into your meadow.

Year Two and Beyond: Mow the entire meadow once a year in late March to early April to a height of about 6 inches -- before the young wildflowers start pushing through the grass. Although some landscape professionals recommend mowing meadows in the fall as well, leaving plants unmowed over the winter provides important food and shelter for wildlife during the harsh winter months. Should you decide to mow a second time in the fall, wait until the year following installation to give the young wildflowers a chance to establish.

Wildflower plugs generally take three years to fully mature, so patience is required, but the result is well worth the wait!



SPRING



SUMMER



FALL



WINTER

BLAKE GOLL | KRISTEN HENWOOD | STEPHANIE KUNIHOLM (STAFF)

RESOURCES

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rushton Farm Plant Sale
April 29 & 30 from 10 am - 3 pm
911 Delchester Road, Newtown Square
Several varieties will be available, including Black-eyed Susan, Butterfly weed, Bee balm, and Purple coneflower.

Wildflower Walk
Thursday, July 20 from 4:30 - 7:30 pm
Visit several private Willistown properties teeming with wildflower blooms. Space limited - RSVP to land@wctrust.org.

PLACES TO BUY NATIVE PLANTS

Mostardi Nursery
4033 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square
www.mostardi.com
610-356-8035

Redbud Native Plant Nursery
904 North Providence Road, Media
www.redbudnativeplantnursery.com
610-892-2833

Wholesale Nurseries: Ask your Landscape Contractor for more information.

North Creek Nursery
www.northcreeknurseries.com | 610-255-0100
New Moon Nursery
www.newmoonnursery.com | 888-998-1951

WILDFLOWER INSPIRATION

Willistown Conservation Trust Office
925 Providence Road, Newtown Square
Follow the mown paths through this one acre hillside meadow.

Rushton Woods Preserve and Rushton Farm
911 Delchester Road, Newtown Square
Wildflowers can be found surrounding most of the crop fields.

Ashbridge Preserve
E. Strasburg Road, West Chester
Many varieties can be found here, but the Common milkweed in late May-June and Joe Pye weed in early August are especially striking.

WCT STAFF FAVORITES PLANT LIST

The plant list below includes a few Trust staff favorites. There are many available options when it comes to selecting native grasses and wildflowers. This plant list is intended to provide you with a starting point and inspiration as you move forward in creating your own meadow.

WILDFLOWERS



Achillea millefolium
(Common yarrow)



Asclepias syriaca
(Common milkweed)



Asclepias tuberosa
(Butterfly weed)



Aster novae-angliae
(New England aster)



Echinacea purpurea
(Purple coneflower)



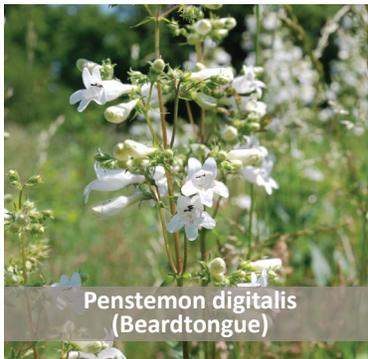
Eupatorium fistulosum
(Joe Pye weed)



Eupatorium hyssopifolium
(Hyssop-leaf thoroughwort)



Monarda bradburiana
(Eastern beebalm)



Penstemon digitalis
(Beardtongue)



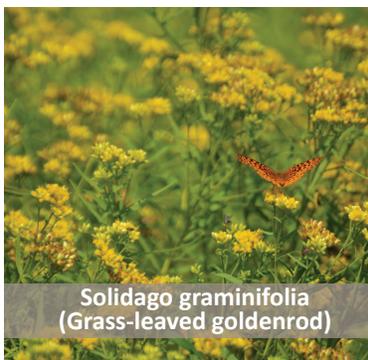
Phlox paniculata 'Jeana'
(Garden phlox)



Pycnanthemum muticum
(Short-toothed mountain mint)



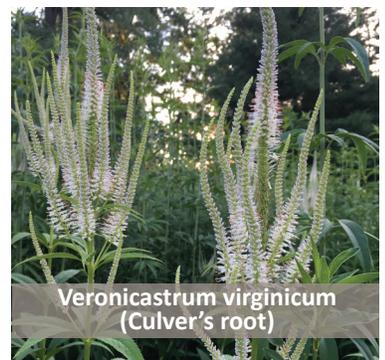
Rudbeckia fulgida
(Black-eyed Susan)



Solidago graminifolia
(Grass-leaved goldenrod)



Ratibida pinnata
(Prairie coneflower)



Veronicastrum virginicum
(Culver's root)

GRASSES



Andropogon virginicus
(Broomsedge)



Schizachyrium scoparium
(Little bluestem)



Sorghastrum nutans
(Indiangrass)

FRONT COVER: BLAKE GOLL/STAFF | WILDFLOWER PHOTOS: BLAKE GOLL/STAFF AND KRISTEN HENWOOD/STAFF | GRASSES: NORTH CREEK NURSERIES