TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

making a home
WILDFLOWER MEADOW

Wildflower beds, commonly referred to as "meadows" are great water-wise features in and additions to the urban landscape. Wildflowers tend to be drought tolerant, vividly colorful, and attractive to wildlife. Follow these easy steps to install your very own home wildflower meadow!

1. Site selection: Try to find a location in your landscape in full sun with well drained soils. Also, look for spaces you're ok with leaving a little less manicured. Wildflower meadows tend to look a little wild and unmanaged but that's part of their beauty!

2. Bed preparation: Remove whatever is already in the planting area. A couple of early fall applications of glyphosate spaced 10 days apart will get rid of Bermudagrass and the majority of even the most stubborn weeds. Manual excavation of soil and existing materials combined with sheet mulching is also a good option. After existing plant material is gone, lightly cultivate the soil to a depth of 2–4 inches.

3. Wildflower selection and planting: Find a wildflower mix suitable to your region or make your own! Many box stores and nurseries sell a variety of seed mixes. Most of these mixes contain plants which will flower throughout the year. The beauty is that species not suited to your area probably won't survive, leaving a well-adapted meadow! Planting date varies by mix and species, but most wildflower seeds should be planted in the fall so they can overwinter and germinate in the spring. Seed evenly across prepared bed and lightly rake to incorporate.

4. Sit back and enjoy! Aside from occasional weeding, removal of spent flowers and plants, and irrigation in severe drought, wildflower meadows require very little maintenance. A good practice is to mow down dead plants during the winter to add a mulch layer to the bed and aid in re-seeding. It's easy to enjoy the color displays and presence of wildlife in your wildflower meadow all year long!