



## PLANTING



### Timing

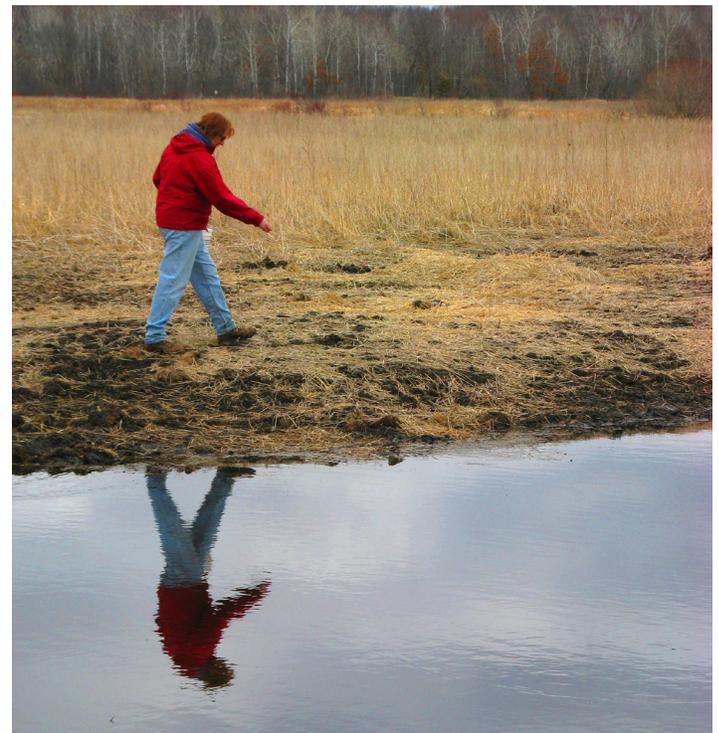
Drill or broadcast seeding of pollinator mixes is often conducted in the fall to allow forb seeds to naturally break dormancy over winter and compete with grasses in the spring. Some forbs that are important for pollinators do not require pre-stratification (Sneezeweed, Dutchman's Breeches, Bugleweed, Wild Bergamot, Evening Primrose, Smooth Blue Aster, Mountain Mint, and Asters) so these species can be successfully seeded in the spring or fall. Spring or late fall is recommended for planting containerized plants to benefit from high soil moisture.

### Methods

Broadcast seeding is most often conducted for diverse mixes as many flowers have small seeds that need to be near the surface. Grasses benefit from being planted deeper but their seeds can often be drill seeded, harrowed, or raked into the soil first, followed by broadcasting the flower seeds. No-till native drills can be calibrated to accommodate different sizes and types of seed and ensure they are planted at the correct depth. Containerized plants are often used for species that do not establish well from seed or grow slowly such as gentian, liatris, butterfly milkweed, turk's cap lily and many woodland flowers. [Inter-seeding](#) is sometimes conducted to add diversity to existing native plantings. Burning, tilling, or other types of site preparation are often necessary before interseeding to decrease competition with forb seedlings, and mowing afterward aids seeding establishment.

### Seed to Soil Contact

After the flowers are seeded, the site can be lightly raked, or rolled to ensure good seed to soil contact and to prevent the loss of seed from wind, birds, and rodents.



See [BWSR Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines](#) and [BWSR's What's Working](#) webpage for additional information on planting methods.