

SPECIES BLOOM TIMES

Bloom times vary depending on multiple factors. The following species are among those typically found in a diverse prairie seed mix for mesic [medium moisture] sites. Many other native species are available and may appear in mixes specified by the NRCS or in pre-mixed packages from prairie seed dealers.

Grasses

Andropogon gerardii - Big bluestem
Bouteloua curtipendula - Sideoats grama
Elymus canadensis - Canada wild rye
Panicum virgatum - Switchgrass
Schizachyrium scaparium - Little bluestem
Sorghastrum nutans - Indiangrass
Sporobolus compositus - Rough dropseed

Forbs

Asclepias incarnata - Swamp milkweed
Asclepias tuberosa - Butterfly milkweed
Symphotrichum novae-angliae - New England aster
Astragalus canadensis - Canada milkvetch
Chamaecrista fasciculata - Partridge pea
Dalea purpurea - Purple prairie clover
Desmodium canadense - Showy tick trefoil
Echinacea pallida - Pale purple coneflower
Eryngium yuccifolium - Rattlesnake master
Helenium autumnale - Sneezeweed
Heliopsis helianthoides - Ox-eye sunflower
Lespedeza capitata - Roundheaded bushclover
Liatris aspera - Rough blazingstar
Liatris pycnostachya - Prairie blazingstar
Monarda fistulosa - Wild bergamot
Oligoneuron rigidum - Stiff goldenrod
Penstemon digitalis - Foxglove penstemon
Pycnanthemum virginianum - Mountain mint
Ratibida pinnata - Yellow coneflower
Rudbeckia hirta - Black-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia subtomentosa - Sweet Black-eyed Susan
Silphium laciniatum - Compass plant
Tradescantia ohiensis - Ohio spiderwort
Verbena stricta - Hoary vervain
Zizia aurea - Golden Alexanders

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>						
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>						
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>						
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>						
<i>Schizachyrium scaparium</i>						
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>						
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<i>Zizia aurea</i>						

RESOURCES

Tallgrass Prairie Center <https://tallgrassprairiecenter.org>
<https://tallgrassprairiecenter.org/seed-service-providers>
 Seed and service providers list, seed mix calculator, prairie how-to videos, post-seeding management, and more

Iowa State University STRIPS <https://www.prairiestrips.org>
 A landowner's guide to prairie strips, FAQs, technical research, additional guidance, cost of prairie strips information, and more

Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ia/programs>
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ia/newsroom/factsheets>
 Talk with your local NRCS office about approved management practices and cost share options for your planting



QUESTIONS? FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

**Prairie on Farms
 Program Manager**
 319-273-3828

**Research and Restoration
 Program Manager**
 Justin Meissen
justin.meissen@uni.edu
 319-273-7957

Past and Current Funders:
 University of Northern Iowa, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Iowa Nutrient Research Center, The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa Economic Development Authority, The New York Community Trust, North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

Collaborators:
 Iowa State University STRIPS, Borlaug Learning Center ISU, Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever, Monarch Joint Venture, Women Food and Agriculture Network, AmeriCorps Land and Water Stewards, ISU Extension, The Cercos Society, The Sand County Foundation, Practical Farmers of Iowa, Hertz Farm Management, Peoples Company, and Iowa Watershed Approach

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 MAINTENANCE
 ——— FOR ———
 LANDOWNERS

FOR HEALTHY SOILS, CLEAN WATER,
 AND WILDLIFE HABITAT





YEAR 1

First-year seedlings are small and patchy, making them hard to find and identify. As a result, people often assume the planting is a failure. Unless the planting is washed out by heavy rains, allow two full growing seasons before replanting. While seedlings are small, avoid driving heavy equipment on the planting.

Establishment Mowing

During the first growing season, native seedlings remain small and can suffer losses due to competition by tall, dense weeds.

- Mow the planting about three or four times, or about once a month, during the first growing season.
- Mow when vegetation reaches knee high.
- Mow to a height of 4-8 inches.

YEAR 2

Mowing

Targeted spot-mowing in the second growing season is encouraged depending on weed density.

- Mow to a height of 12 inches.
- Consult with your local conservation professional for recommendations.

Weed Control

- Consider careful spot-treatment of weeds when using herbicides. Learn more about common weeds on the Tallgrass Prairie Center's website under the Prairie on Farms Program.

Wildlife

- Consider delaying spot-mowing until after the nesting season has concluded [mid-July].

Drift Considerations

- Be mindful of herbicide drift. Do not spray on windy days. Consider turning off a row or two of the sprayer and revisit the site with a smaller ATV to apply more precisely.

YEAR 3 & BEYOND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Check local resources for your specific program requirements and options.

Prescribed Burn

Dormant season fire (spring or fall) is commonly practiced on prairie plantings.

Hay

A mid-summer haying once every couple seasons helps control brush, supplements income and provides over-wintering wildlife habitat since it will regrow from mid-summer into the fall.

Spot-Mow

Post-establishment spot-mowing is effective for managing weedy or brushy areas. Spot-mowing should be considered before opting for herbicide use.

Spot-Spray

Pay extra attention to spraying. Drift from herbicides can weaken all vegetation, making the planting more susceptible to weed invasion.

