



HERITAGE

seedlings, inc.

Unusual Deciduous Species

NATIVE LANDSCAPE AND PRAIRIE GARDEN PLANTING

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GENERAL INFORMATION ON SITE PREPARATION, PLANTING AND MANAGEMENT

SITE PREPARATION

- Formal garden areas should be substantially free of competitive weeds.
- If you are planning a garden in a “natural area” and it is comprised of dense grass and weeds, herbicide application for 1 or 2 growing seasons is recommended. Non-native pasture grasses are heavy competitors for native wildflowers. For successful, long-term persistence, non-native grasses need to be eliminated and controlled in areas where flowers are introduced or inter-planted with native bunchgrasses.

PLANTING

- Loosen hard, compacted soil prior to planting using a mattock or similar tool.
- Plant in autumn with the onset of natural rainfall and cooler temperatures.
- Plant plugs or bare root plants in unimproved soil or garden mulch, covering the entire root ball. Do *not* leave part of the root ball exposed or you risk drought stress before the plants are rooted into the soil. Likewise, take care not to plant them too deeply or they may rot. The root ball of our plugs are small, about 1 ¾” × 1 ¾” × 3”. To improve soil contact, shake off excess potting soil before planting plugs.
- *Camassia* can be planted to a depth of 6 inches at any orientation, *Brodiaea* and *Calochortus* planting depth is twice the diameter of the bulbs at any orientation, and *Erythronium* and *Perideridia* is planted horizontally at 4 inches.
- Mulch around new plants to a depth of 2” or use some other physical weed barrier to inhibit weeds. Wood chips and bark are effective mulches.
- In a garden, annuals can add a desirable, colorful element and they help mimic the natural environment. After planting perennials, broadcast annual seed in patches onto weed free mulch. Our native annuals all require *light* to germinate so they need to be sown on the soil surface. For them to persist in the garden, allow them to set seed each year [by July – August].
- Supplemental irrigation should not be required for autumn plantings.

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PLANTING RATES

- One perennial every 2ft² or 500 plants per 1000ft².
- In formal landscapes, plant small groups of species either in separate clusters, or overlapping clusters like the links of a chain. Design, descriptions, height and flower color information are provided in the Heritage Seedlings Plant Database under *Our Plants, Perennials*.
- For a more “natural look” plant species randomly.
- Bulbous perennials do not take up much space so they can be planted much closer and should be intermingled with shorter species.

PRAIRIE PLANTING PLAN

- A grass dominated meadow will have a species mix of nearly 80% grasses while a forb dominated prairie will be between 50 – 60% grasses. For the best look, maintain at least 50% grasses in your planting.

CARE AND MANAGEMENT

- Native perennials will *thrive* on a very low level of care.
- If you desire NO reseeded “volunteer” plants, it is very important to cut seed heads before seed set or reapplying mulch.
- If volunteer plants are desirable (a more “natural” look), cut back or mow in late-August or September to 2 – 4”. This will reduce thatch, and autumn rains stimulate re-growth of species that do not have winter dormancy.
- **Do Not** cut *Iris tenax* or *Asclepias* ssp. earlier than late-August. Other species can be cut as early as mid-July.
- Hand-weeding and selective applications of glyphosate and broadleaf herbicides will help ensure long-term persistence.