

## Choosing the Optimal Seed Species for Your Site.

When it comes to seeding we choose to work with the site as it is. This means minimal if any soil disturbance and no soil amendments such as fertilizers. The existing site conditions determine what species will have the best chance of establishing. It is a waste of seed, time and money to sow seeds that are not site suitable. For a sustainable seeding project it's worth taking the time to gather basic information about the site including:

- 1. Soil type** (sand, loam, clay, muck)
- 2. Soil moisture content** (extremely dry, drains well, holds water for short/long time)
- 3. Sunlight exposure** (full sun, part sun, full shade)
- 4. Current vegetation** (indicates what type of vegetation the site can support)

The next step in species selection takes your personal specifications into account including:

### **1. Plant Height**

What height is suitable for your site? In general 2-3 ' is short and 6'+ is tall when it comes to wildflowers and grasses.

### **2. Wildflower/Grass Ratio**

Would you like grasses or wildflowers to be dominant or a 50/50 mix of both?

### **3. Budget**

Browsing our species list you will notice that cost per species varies tremendously. In general grasses are less costly than wildflowers, but there are exceptions. Having a budget in mind can be beneficial and save planning time.

The information gathered above will direct you to species that can tolerate and thrive in those conditions. Our species list includes sunlight and moisture condition requirements as well as plant height, bloom time and color. We've developed our standard seed mixes to meet particular site conditions as well to simplify the process for you.

Taking the time to gather the information noted will direct you to make the best species choices as well as save time and money on your way to establishing a more sustainable landscape of native plants.