



How to Grow Wildflowers From Seed; A Talk and Seed Exchange

Some of our favorite easy to grow wildflowers:

California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*): ¼" – 2' tall 1–2' wide. Yellow to orange flowers. Full sun. Very low to low water. Actually, this one is a perennial...If you cut it down, give it some water it may bloom again (smaller bloom) and return for several years. Cut it to the ground and leave it to grow back bigger and earlier than the plants newly grown from seed that season. Easy, reliable and iconic California! Snails, slugs, rabbits leave it alone and the bees adore it. Readily reseeds. Sow directly, do not transplant.

Baby Blue Eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*): 1-2" wide blooms. Blue with a white center. 8-12" high. Full sun to part shade. Low water. Can be transplanted. Does well in containers. Wildlife supported: Birds, butterflies, bees and moths. Use in a meadow or urban garden.

Elegant Clarkia (*Clarkia unguiculata*) 3' tall and wide. Pink-magenta blossoms. Full sun to part shade. Low water. Fast grower. Can be transplanted. Does well in containers, good cut flower. Wildlife support: Butterfly, bees, moths.

Globe Gillia (*Gilia capitata*) 1/3" – 3' tall blue, lavender, pink and white flowers. Full sun. Very low water. Transplants well. Does well in containers. Wildlife support: Butterflies, bees, moths. Early bloomer.

Lacy Phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*) 2-4' tall 1-1/2' wide. Blue flowers. Full sun. Very low water. Readily self-seeds. Wildlife supported: Bees, hoverflies, moths and other beneficials. Needs darkness to germinate. Fast grower with long flowering period.

Lupine (*Lupinus*): 1 – 3' tall and wide. Yellow and blue. Full sun. Very low to low water. Readily re-seeds. Sow directly in the ground (taproot). Soak seeds overnight before sowing. Wildlife supported: Bird, bee, butterfly, moths. Annual and perennial varieties. Fast to moderate growth rate.

Tidy Tips (*Layia Platglossa*) ½" – 2' tall and wide. Yellow, tipped with white. Full sun. Low water. Transplants well. Does well in containers. Wildlife supported: Butterflies and moths.

Ruby Chalice Clarkia (*Clarkia rubicunda*) 2.5' tall and wide. Lavender, pink, purple and red flower range. Full sun. Very low water. Mounding habitat so a few plants can cover a large area. Pink/purplish flowers. Transplants well. Does well in containers. Wildlife supported:

Bees, butterflies, moths. Late blooming into June and July. Fast grower. Once monthly summer water when established.

Farewell to Spring (*Clarkia amoena*) 1.5'– 3' tall and wide. Full sun. Low water. Fast grower with late summer (June and July) flowers. Once monthly water when established.

Non-native Wildflowers:

Bishop's Lace (*Ammi majus*) 2-1/2 – 3' high snow-white blossoms. Full sun. Readily re-seeds. Wildlife supported: Bees and butterflies. Makes a good cut flower. North American native.

Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia*). 12-18" tall and wide. Yellow, orange and red flowers. Full sun, low water. A Perennial herb often grown as an annual. Readily reseeds. Long bloom period providing year-round flowers. If flowering declines in the summer, cut back to rejuvenate and encourage fall blooms. Good in containers and as cut flowers. Wildlife supported: Bees, birds and butterflies. North American Native.

Sources for this talk:

Theodore Payne Foundation www.theodorepayne.org Select **Learn** from the drop down menu then **Plant Guides**

Notes on Growing California Wildflowers www.larnerseeds.com

The Wildflower Top 10 by Arvind Kumar <https://www.cnps-scv.org/images/handouts/Wildflowers.pdf> www.cnps-scv.org select **Gardening** from the dropdown menu then select **Gardening Resources**

Calscape.org for plant specific information

Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants, Updated and Expanded, by Doug Tallamy, PhD

Where to buy:

Many garden centers sell seed packets of mixed native annuals

You can make your own mix

Larner Seeds (www.larnerseeds.com)

Annie's Annuals (www.annieannuals.com)

Theodore Payne Foundation <https://theodorepayne.org/plants-and-seeds/>