

Management

It can take up to 3 years for a wildflower meadow planting to become a fully functioning plant community. Monitoring for and removal of undesirable weed species throughout the growing season is required maintenance for the first few years. Mowing of taller, more aggressive wildflower species to a height of 8 inches midway through the growing season may be needed to give slower growing species a chance in the first years. After establishment, a wildflower meadow should only need to be mowed every 3 years in order to keep woody vegetation in check. The meadow should be considered a natural area and plant stems and leaves should remain to provide food and shelter for wildlife as well as stormwater interception, soil nutrients and organic matter. A meadow is dynamic and will evolve and change over time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about wildflower meadows and their establishment please visit our website. A complete plant list for this area plus more resources can be found at ccebroomecounty.com/gardening/cutler-botanic-gardens



Cutler Botanic Garden

ASK A MASTER GARDENER

Our Master Gardener Volunteers are available to take your gardening questions via email from April thru October.

Visit our website to submit a question and upload photos online:

ccebroomecounty.com/gardening



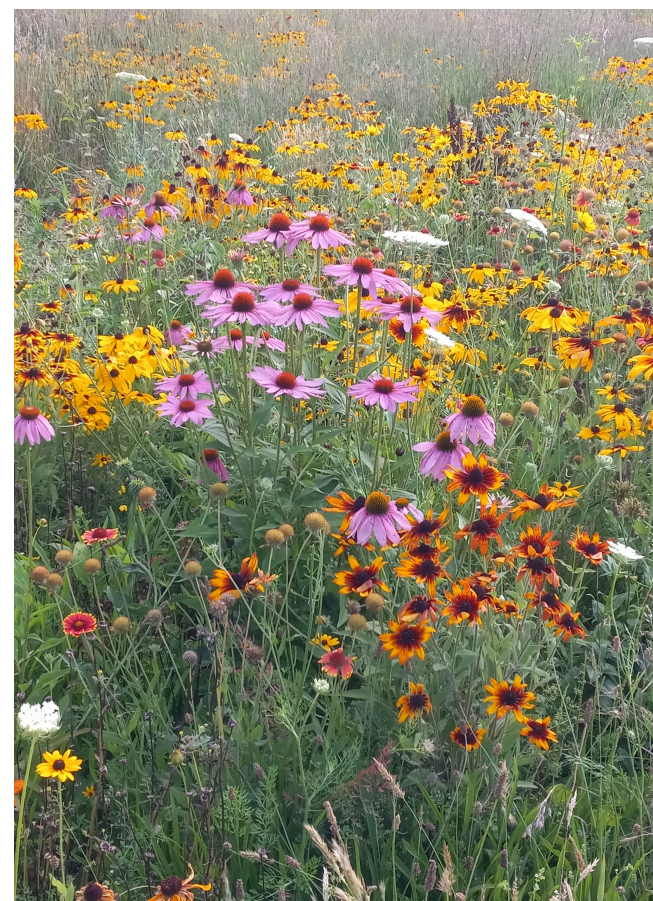
Ask A Master Gardener

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Broome County

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THE WILDFLOWER MEADOW



 **Cutler**
BOTANIC GARDEN

What is a Meadow?

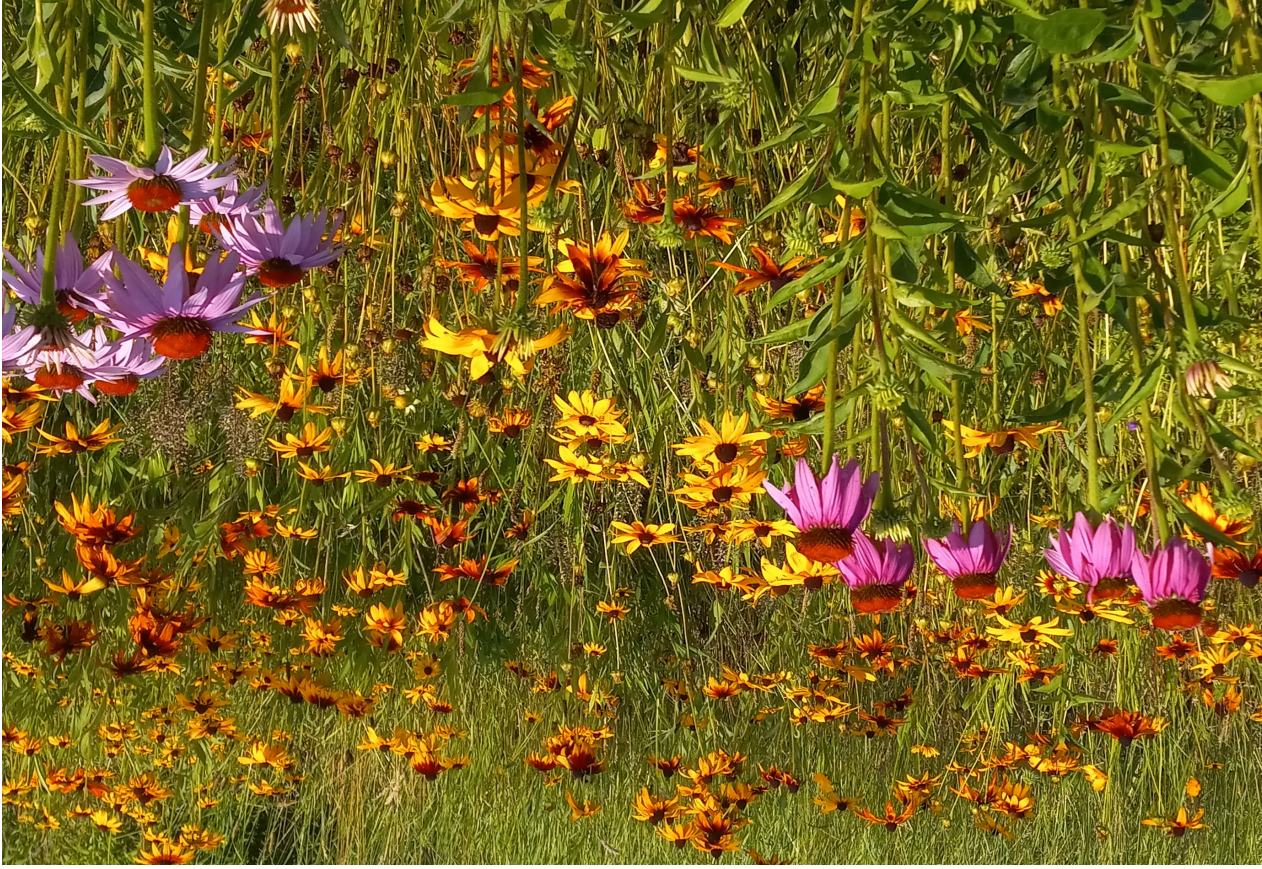
A meadow is defined as a plant community composed of mainly herbaceous perennials and grasses. Once established, a wildflower meadow provides important ecosystem services and habitat for wildlife while also being an environmentally friendly, low maintenance part of the landscape. Establishment, however, is not as simple as scattering flower seeds on a site or ceasing to mow an area of lawn. Proper site preparation is critical to successful wildflower seed germination and establishment.

Statement of Purpose

Cutler Botanic Garden seeks to inspire community involvement in gardening by providing the best in horticultural demonstration and education.

Our Process

Wildflower meadow at DEC office, Kirkwood, NY



We modeled our project on the research of a few universities in the region. Removal of existing vegetation can be accomplished in several ways – tarping, herbicide treatments, sod removal, repeated tilling, or simply hand pulling. Since it is a relatively large area, we chose to have the sod removed by machine. By removing the sod to a depth of about 4 inches the bulk of the weed seed bank in the soil is also removed, providing a less competitive environment for wildflower seedling establishment.