

## 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](http://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](http://ccebroomecounty.com/gardening)



Ask A Master Gardener

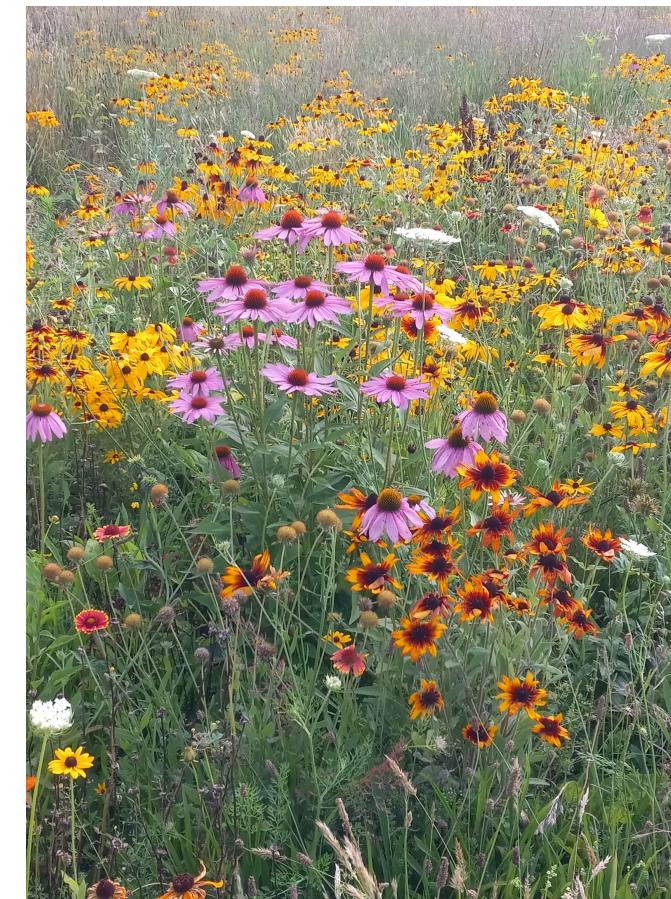
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# WILDFLOWER MEADOW



Cutler  
BOTANIC GARDEN

## education.

guardening by providing the best in horticultural demonstration and

Inspire community involvement in

Cutter Botanic Garden seeks to

## Statement of Purpose

establishment.

## seed germination and

of lawn. Proper site preparation is critical to successful wildflower

simple as scattering flower seeds on a site or ceasing to mow an area

mainenance part of the landscape. Establishment, however, is not as

wildlife while also being an environmentally friendly, low

## **Meadow provides habitat for ecosystem services and biodiversity**

Once established, a wildflower  
that becomes perennials and flowers.

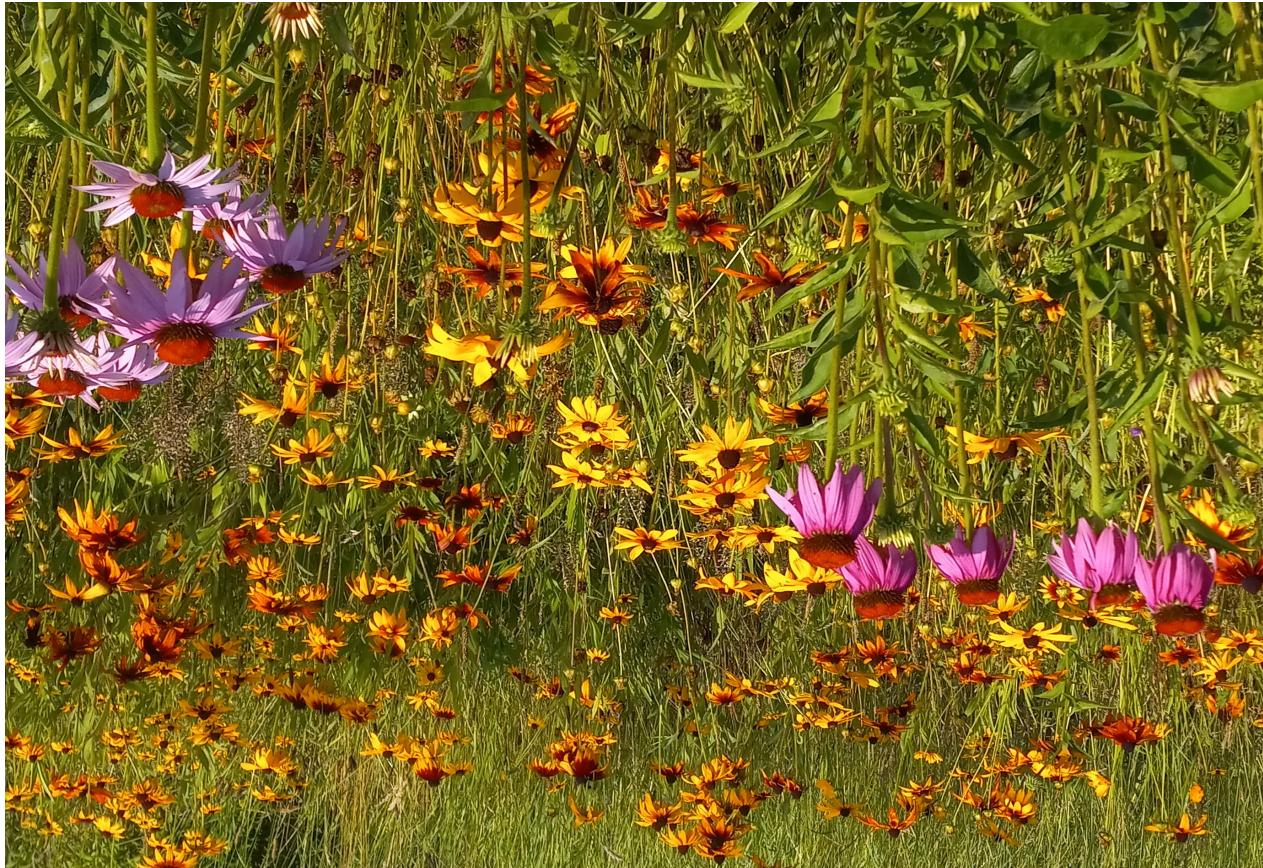
community composed of mainly

A meadow is defined as a plant

## 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 – trapping, herbicide treatments, sod removal, repeated tillage, 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.



## What is a Meadow?