



**OCTOBER TIP SAVINGS: Up to \$300/YR**

**Avoided Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>: Up to 500 lbs./YR**

# \$USTAINABILITY \$AVINGS TIP

## WILDFLOWERS ANNOUNCE THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING

### Plant Wildflower Seeds NOW for Spring Bloom!

Desert plants are masters of survival, each with its own strategy for thriving in our arid climate. Cacti and agaves store water, gray leaves like those of sages and brittlebush reflect the sun, and palo verdes photosynthesize through their green bark when leaves drop off in dry times.

Wildflowers, though, take a different approach – they're **drought evaders**. These colorful bloomers grow only when conditions are just right. Seeds germinate in the fall and winter after seasonal rains (starting around October), stay small through the cooler months, and then burst into bloom to celebrate spring's arrival.

Plant your wildflower seeds **now through mid-December** for a dazzling spring show!

### ✂ WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Avoid wildflower or 'meadow' mixes from other parts of the country or world. For example, African Daisies are... well, from Africa. Instead, choose quality, locally grown or collected seed featuring **Sonoran Desert** favorites such as Mexican Gold Poppies, Arizona Lupines, and Desert Bluebells.

### ✂ WHEN & HOW TO PLANT

Spring-blooming wildflowers are best seeded from **October through mid-December**. Mix about a teaspoon of seed with a couple cups of fine soil or compost to spread them evenly. Then scatter the mix and lightly rake it into the soil surface (or scratch into granite areas around boulders).



*Mexican Gold Poppies and Arizona Lupines planted together provides a great contrast in color.*

### ✂ WATERING & CARE

If we get adequate winter rains, there is no need to water. Otherwise, water the area 2-3 times weekly to germinate, then only once every 3-4 weeks. Since many of the wildflowers are annuals, they will set seeds after they have put on their show. You can collect the seeds yourself to sow next fall or just allow them to fall to the ground. The seeds that don't get eaten by birds or insects will set the stage for the following year if there's adequate rain. Dried plants can be pulled or chopped up to mulch the area.

### ✂ GET A FREE WILDFLOWER SEED PACKET

- **Grow Your Love of the Desert:** Request your **free wildflower seed packet** and start planning your own spring show. Visit [wateruseitwisely.com/seeds](http://wateruseitwisely.com/seeds).
- Don't miss our newly updated booklet, **Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert**.  
☎ Call (480) 644-3306 for a copy or download it at [amwua.org/plants](http://amwua.org/plants).

### \$START \$AVING

You can start saving by planting water-wise, seasonal plants and doing your part for *building a sustainable community*. Visit our website for more sustainability savings tips at [www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability](http://www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability).



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