

WILDFLOWERS

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
YAVAPAI COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM



The University
of Arizona

**“A weed is no more than a
flower in disguise”**

▶ James Russell Lowell





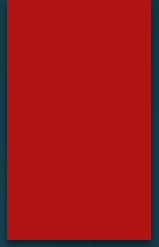
What You Will Learn

- ▶ How to Get Started
 - ▶ Plants?
 - ▶ Seed Propagation?
- ▶ Choosing a Site
- ▶ Elements of Care
- ▶ Resources for Additional Information



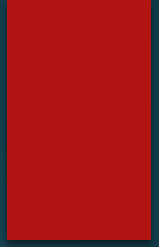
Definitions

- ▶ Native Plant
 - ▶ Plants growing before arrival of European settlers
- ▶ Wildflowers
 - ▶ Native plants with forbs (blooms) that grow without human care
- ▶ Exotics
 - ▶ Non-natives whether they have been here 100 years or less



Why Grow Wildflowers?

- ▶ Easy to establish
- ▶ Easy to maintain
- ▶ Food source for native pollinators
- ▶ Wildlife not drawn to the plants
- ▶ Perennials capable of self-propagation



Establishing a Wildflower Garden?

- ▶ Agents of change
- ▶ Nature, such as wind and rain
- ▶ Wildlife, such as birds and animals
- ▶ Humans (purchases or seeds)





DESERT VERBENA
(*Glandularia goodingii*)

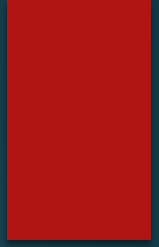


GAILLARDIA

(Gaillardia)

Getting Started

- ▶ Choose a location
 - ▶ Raised bed?
 - ▶ Problem area in yard?
- ▶ Remove weeds



Starting Plants from Seeds

- ▶ When to plant? Late fall? Monsoons?
- ▶ Read the packet
- ▶ Mix the seeds with a little sand
- ▶ Rough up the ground
- ▶ Spread seeds
- ▶ Cover seeds
- ▶ Water



Suggestions for Placement

- ▶ Around a boulder
- ▶ South/west side
- ▶ Good soil unnecessary
- ▶ Consider height and breadth of plants



Special Notes

- ▶ Caution with some commercial wildflower mixes
- ▶ Wildflower seeds have lower viability
- ▶ Some seeds require two years to produce blooms
- ▶ Understanding the life span of mother plant
- ▶ Understanding the spreading habits
- ▶ When to transplant





PARRY PENSTEMON

(*Penstemon parryi*)



Starting Plants Indoors

Example: Milkweed

- ▶ Sterilize re-used containers (10:1 water to bleach)
- ▶ Plant in seed-starting medium
- ▶ Do not plant deep
- ▶ Plant about 3 seeds per cell
- ▶ Spray lightly with water or set 6 pack in water for 15 minutes
- ▶ Create a small greenhouse; keep moist
- ▶ Refrigerate for a month
- ▶ Open the greenhouse lid once most cells have sprouted
- ▶ Grow lights





AGASTACHE
(*Agastache rupertris*)
RED BUTTERFLY
MILKWEED
(*Asclepius curassavica*)

Maintenance

- ▶ Fairly insect and disease-free
- ▶ Avoid insecticides/herbicides
- ▶ Check regularly for weeds
- ▶ Water for longer lasting blooms



Create / Show Elements of Care

- ▶ Can look messy
- ▶ Create border
- ▶ Consider a small seating area
- ▶ Position a bird house or bird bath
- ▶ Install plant identification signs



Summary

- ▶ Site selection
- ▶ Prep soil
- ▶ Start small
- ▶ Take notes
- ▶ Be patient





DESERT MARIGOLD
(*Baileya multiradiata*)
EATON PENSTEMON
(*Penstemon eatonii*)

Additional Resources

- ▶ Yavapai County Native and Naturalized Plant Database
 - ▶ (<https://cal.Arizona.edu.Yavapaiplants>)
- ▶ Backyard Gardener articles
- ▶ Highland Center (Prescott)
- ▶ Flagstaff Arboretum
- ▶ Desert Botanical Garden in February (Phoenix)
- ▶ Red Rock Ranger Station in Sedona (two-week wildflower display)
- ▶ Go on a hike in your area during the wildflower season



For more information about our programs,
visit our website at
extension.arizona.edu/yavapai

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Cooperative Extension

Yavapai County