















MASTER GARDENER

The Idaho Transportation Department's

Operation Wildflower Program

Is ALIVE and GROWING!

~ Participating in Operation Wildflower is as easy as 1-2-3 ~

Step 1: Select an appropriate right-of-way section. (See *Guidelines For Right of Way Planting* below).

Step 2: Fill out an "Idaho Operation Wildflower Application"

https://itd.idaho.gov/road-mtce/?target=volunteer-activities

and email it to AdoptAHighway@itd.idaho.gov

We can also send you an application packet and you can return hard copies to the contact for your area. Contacts by county are listed below.

Step 3: Once your application has been reviewed and approved you will be contacted to pick up your wildflower seeds (let us know if you prefer to have them mailed). You will be able to spread your wildflower seeds using the guidelines listed below in the approved area as indicated on your application.

Guidelines for Right of Way Planting:

Cathy Ford, Roadside Program Manager for the Idaho Transportation Department, suggests the following planting guidelines:

- 1. Plant a minimum of 10' from the edge of the pavement. If noxious weeds are present plant <u>behind</u> the noxious weeds up to 30 feet from the edge of the pavement.
- 2. Plant in areas that have visible soil (niches where seeds can germinate and establish).
- 3. **DO NOT** plant in heavily sodded, grassy, or thick mulch layer (such as pine needle or dead plant material) where the seed cannot be incorporated into the soil.
- 4. Sow or distribute seed in an even pattern to provide a light coverage over the entire area; do no sow all the seed in one small space within a large area.
- 5. Take care to not sow seed over rocks or over heavily compacted soil; seed can be sown into rock where there are spaces for the seed to grow such as a rock mulch area.
- 6. For best seed germination and establishment soils may need to be raked or roughened and seed lightly incorporated in to the soils. (Seed to soil contact is necessary for germination. Kara Carleton)
- 7. Be aware of the time of year you are planting seeds. It is best to plant in the Fall (end of September/October). It is also recommended that Volunteers observe the weather forecast and plant seeds just prior to expected rain, if possible.

Additional planting tips:

- 1. Choose a spot that gets 6 or more hours of direct sun (unless you are planting a partial shade mixture.) www.americanmeadows.com/wildflowers
- 2. Mix seeds with sand for better visibility and scatter seeds directly on top of the soil. www.americanmeadows.com/wildflowers

3. University of Idaho Extension Master Gardener Coordinator, Kara Carleton, commented that wild flower seeds are very hardy and safe to be spread in the fall after the first killing frost but before the ground freezes. Kara also said that wildflower seeds can survive on top of some late Spring snow! In order to see color the first year, it is recommended to include annuals and perennials in your seed mix since some perennials will not bloom until the second year.

Thank you for your interest.

District 1:

Kimberly Hobson 600 W Prairie Dr Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815-8764

Phone: 208-772-1238

Kimberly.hobson@itd.idaho.gov

Counties: Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai and Shoshone

District 2:

Kelsie Corder PO Box 837

Lewiston, ID 83501-0837 Phone: 208-799-4207

kelsie.corder@itd.idaho.gov

Counties: Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce

District 3:

Jenn Ford

PO Box 8028

Boise, ID 83707-2028 Phone: 208-334-8350 jennifer.ford@itd.idaho.gov

Counties: Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley and Washington

District 4:

Wendy Robinson 216 S. Date St Shoshone, ID 83352 Phone: 208-886-7800

wendy.robinson@itd.idaho.gov

Counties: Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka and Twin Falls

District 5:

Sharon Short 5151 S 5th Ave Pocatello, Id 83204 Phone: 208-239-3303

sharon.short@itd.idaho.gov

Counties: Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida and Power

District 6:

Erika Tucker

206 N Yellowstone Highway

Rigby, Id 83442

Phone: 208-745-5612 erika.tucker@itd.idaho.gov

Counties: Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Freemont, Custer, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison and Teton