



HOW I CREATED A MICRO MEADOW IN MY VIRGINIA BACKYARD

Restoring native habitat in a small space

In a compact **100' × 15' backyard area**, I set out to restore a long abandoned bunny warren, transforming it into a thriving **native micro meadow**. What was once neglected ground now buzzes with life, offering shelter for rabbits, nesting cover for birds, and abundant nectar for pollinators.

By reconnecting the garden with its natural roots, this small meadow demonstrates that **even modest spaces can become vibrant, ecologically meaningful habitats**.

The Method I Used

1. Observe Before You Plant

I spent a full season observing the site before making any changes, tracking sun exposure, drainage, and existing volunteer plants. Much of Virginia has dense clay soil and experiences both drought and saturation, so understanding how water moved through the space was essential.

Because my site receives full sun and drains slowly, I selected plants adapted to those conditions rather than trying to alter the site itself.

Key takeaway: Let the site guide your plant choices.

2. Select Plants Native to Virginia

A meadow is a **community**, not just a collection of flowers. I used a mix of native grasses, flowering perennials, and groundcovers suited to Virginia's climate.

Core species included:

Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

Purple lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)

Black eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

Bee balm (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.)

Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)

Wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*)

Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*)

These plants thrive in Virginia's heat and humidity, support local pollinators, and require very little supplemental irrigation once established.



