



# MEADOW STARTER GUIDE

*Small steps. Lasting habitat.*

## **Think Habitat, Not Flower Bed**

A meadow isn't about neat rows. It's a layered system of grasses, blooms, and seed heads that feed and shelter wildlife year round.

## **Remove Competition First**

Healthy meadows begin with clear ground. Eliminate turf and invasive plants thoroughly before planting – this is the most important step.

## **Plant Natives That Belong**

Choose species adapted to your soil and sun. Local native grasses form the backbone; wildflowers provide nectar, color, and seasonal interest.

## **Embrace Density**

Plant closer than you think. Dense planting shades soil, suppresses weeds, and creates instant habitat structure.

Expect a “Teenage Phase” Year one builds roots. Year two fills in. By year three, the meadow finds its rhythm.

## **Manage, Don't Manicure**

Cut back once a year in late winter or early spring. Skip constant trimming – wildlife depends on what you leave standing.

## **Scalability**

You don't need acreage. You need a starting point. Every meadow in these pages began with a single section and grew from there. Native systems allow you to begin small, build confidence, and expand as you're ready. Section by section, lawn becomes habitat. Patch by patch, beauty multiplies. Together, those small spaces create something far greater than the sum of their parts.



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