

# Guidelines for a Naturalized Yard



**Start small** with one flowerbed of native flowers to make sure you have the time to look after it. It may need frequent weeding for the first year until it gets established. Once it is established, though, maintenance doesn't take much time.

**Take out** all the lawn grass and any perennial weeds in the planned bed before planting—native wildflowers can't compete with turf. While it may be tempting to leave the grass and just plant into or around it, lawn grasses are aggressive and will prevent the flowers from growing well. Try native bunch grasses or sedges if you prefer a mix of flowers and grasses.

**Watch out** for perennial weeds creeping back, especially lawn grass or quack grass, which is the hardest to control. Lawn edging around your flowerbed and a no-grow border of wood chips or a similar material will help to stop the turf grass creeping in from the adjacent lawn.



## *Creating a Wildflower Meadow*

Gradually expand your wildflower planting area until it fills the space you have. A gradual expansion is much easier to control and maintain than starting with a large area.

If the meadow is in your front yard, you may want to let your neighbours and passers-by know that your yard is still being cared for even if it looks wild. The following are some suggestions for making your new garden look well-maintained, planned, and loved:

- ☼ Set a defined edging (such as decorative rocks, wood chips, landscape edging, or a strip of mown grass) around the meadow, or at least on the public sidewalk or street edge.
- ☼ Place a short decorative fence around the meadow.
- ☼ Post a colourful sign such as “Butterfly Garden”, or “This Garden Is for the Bees” etc.
- ☼ Install landscaping features like a stepping-stone path winding through the meadow, a bird bath, or a bench for sitting and admiring the flowers.
- ☼ Weed your meadow weekly. Weeding will not take long once the plants are established. You can also use a natural wood chip mulch to suppress weeds.

A rain garden could also be a wonderful addition that will allow you to grow those native wildflowers that prefer extra water.

