

POCKET MEADOWS IN FULL SUN: GUIDE AND PLANT CHART

Pocket meadows are scaled-down versions of meadows and, among many possible applications, are useful for meeting some green infrastructure requirements. Choosing the right plants for the right place is critical for the success of any project. Herein we will be offering basic guidelines for establishing a pocket meadow in full sun and a chart of recommended plants to use as a baseline. These plants were also selected for possible use in public spaces where a clear line of sight must be maintained and have therefore, with some exceptions, focused on plants of low to medium height.

POCKET MEADOWS

What differentiates a pocket meadow from many other small residential, urban, and green infrastructure plantings is the balance between forbs (flowering herbaceous perennials) and grasses. An ideal mix should include no more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of either. Other considerations include a dense layout and layered plant height to create a green mulch that will help inhibit weeds and improve soil moisture retention.

GROWING REQUIREMENTS

An underlying characteristic of meadows is that they occur - naturally or not - in open areas and are therefore exposed to full sun. Soil moisture may vary, but this introduction focuses on pocket meadows for full sun and poor, dry soil. These conditions are often found in residential and commercial developments that lack trees and where the topsoil has been removed. This is also typical of most hell strips: the area between a road and a sidewalk where no plants tend to survive.

PLANTING ADVICE

For a pocket meadow to be resilient and effective, it should be densely planted. Our recommended basic spacing is 12" on center, possibly farther apart for the larger plants and closer together for the shorter ones. The plants listed in this chart are adapted to difficult conditions, but can be killed through kindness. We do not recommend amending the soil with organic matter, because a rich environment can lead these plants to grow too tall and weak. An initial layer of mulch can be helpful to keep weeds down and soil moisture levels up during the initial establishment period. Once planted, the meadow should be thoroughly watered to eliminate air gaps in the soil. Beyond that, these plants should be left to their own devices, and only watered if you experience extraordinarily dry conditions within the first year of planting.

Read more about pocket meadows here: izelplants.com/blog/pocket-meadows/



izelplants.com
hello@izelplants.com
410.989.3721

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Forbs for Pocket Meadows in Full Sun	Common Name or Cultivar Name	Zone	Bloom Color	Height		Season of Interest				Bloom Time			Exposure			Moisture	
				Plant	In Bloom	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Sun	Part-Sun	Part-Shade	Dry	Moist
Agastache foeniculum	anise hyssop	3-7		2'-3'	3'-4'												
Asclepias tuberosa	butterfly milkweed	4-10		1'-2'	2'-3'												
Asclepias verticillata	whorled milkweed	3-10		1'-2'	2'-3'												
Callirhoe involucrata	purple poppymallow	4-9		6"-12"	6"-12"												
Coreopsis verticillata	'Zagreb'	4-9		6"-12"	12"-18"												
Echinacea purpurea	eastern purple coneflower	4-8		2'-3'	4'-5'												
Eupatorium hyssopifolium	hyssopleaf thoroughwort	5-8		1'-2'	2'-3'												
Oenothera fruticosa	narrowleaf evening primrose	4-9		1"-3"	1'-2'												
Penstemon digitalis	foxglove beardtongue	4-8		3"-6"	3'-5'												
Penstemon digitalis	'Husker Red'	4-8		3"-6"	3'-5'												
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium	narrowleaf mountainmint	4-8		1'-2'	2'-3'												
Rudbeckia hirta	blackeyed Susan	3-10		1'-2'	2'-3'												
Rudbeckia triloba	browneyed Susan	4-8		2'-3'	3'-5'												
Solidago nemoralis	gray goldenrod	3-8		1'-2'	1'-3'												
Solidago odora	anisescented goldenrod	4-10		2'-3'	3'-4'												
Symphyotrichum georgianum	Georgia aster	4-9		1'-2'	1'-3'												
Symphyotrichum oblongifolium	aromatic aster	4-8		1'-2'	2'-3'												
Symphyotrichum oblongifolium	'October Skies'	4-8		6"-12"	1'-2'												
Symphyotrichum oblongifolium	'Raydon's Favorite'	4-8		1'-2'	2'-3'												

Grasses for Pocket Meadows in Full Sun	Common Name or Cultivar Name	Zone	Bloom Color	Height		Season of Interest				Bloom Time			Exposure			Moisture	
				Plant	In Bloom	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Sun	Part-Sun	Part-Shade	Dry	Moist
Andropogon ternarius	splitbeard bluestem	5-10		2'-3'	3'-4'												
Andropogon ternarius	'Black Mountain'	5-10		2'-3'	3'-4'												
Eragrostis elliottii	field lovegrass	6-9		1'-2'	2'-3'												
Eragrostis spectabilis	purple lovegrass	4-10		8"-12"	1'-2'												
Muhlenbergia capillaris	pink muhly grass	5-10		1'-2'	2'-3'												
Muhlenbergia reverchonii	seep muhly	6-10		1'-2'	2'-3'												
Muhlenbergia reverchonii	'Undaunted'	6-10		6"-12"	1'-2'												
Schizachyrium scoparium	little bluestem	3-10		1'-2'	3'-4'												
Schizachyrium scoparium	'Blaze'	3-9		1'-2'	2'-3'												
Schizachyrium scoparium	'Standing Ovation'	3-10		1'-2'	2'-3'												



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