




Mini-Meadowsfrom Seed




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Ecological Horticulturist





Mini-Meadows

- “Low maintenance” NOT “No maintenance”
- Maintenance
 - Greatest during first year, then gradually declines over time
- Appearance varies



Establishing / Managing

- How to do it
- Why



Prepare The Non-Weedy Site

1. Kill existing vegetation

- Apply glyphosate 2X, starting 1 month before seeding
- Apply in morning to nonstressed veg.
- “More” is not better

2. “Mow low”; 1 inch of stubble

3. Remove clippings with leaf rake



Glyphosate Products

Do not use any glyphosate product that provides residual, extended, or preemergent weed control

Site Ready for Seeding



Firm-Up Sandy Soil

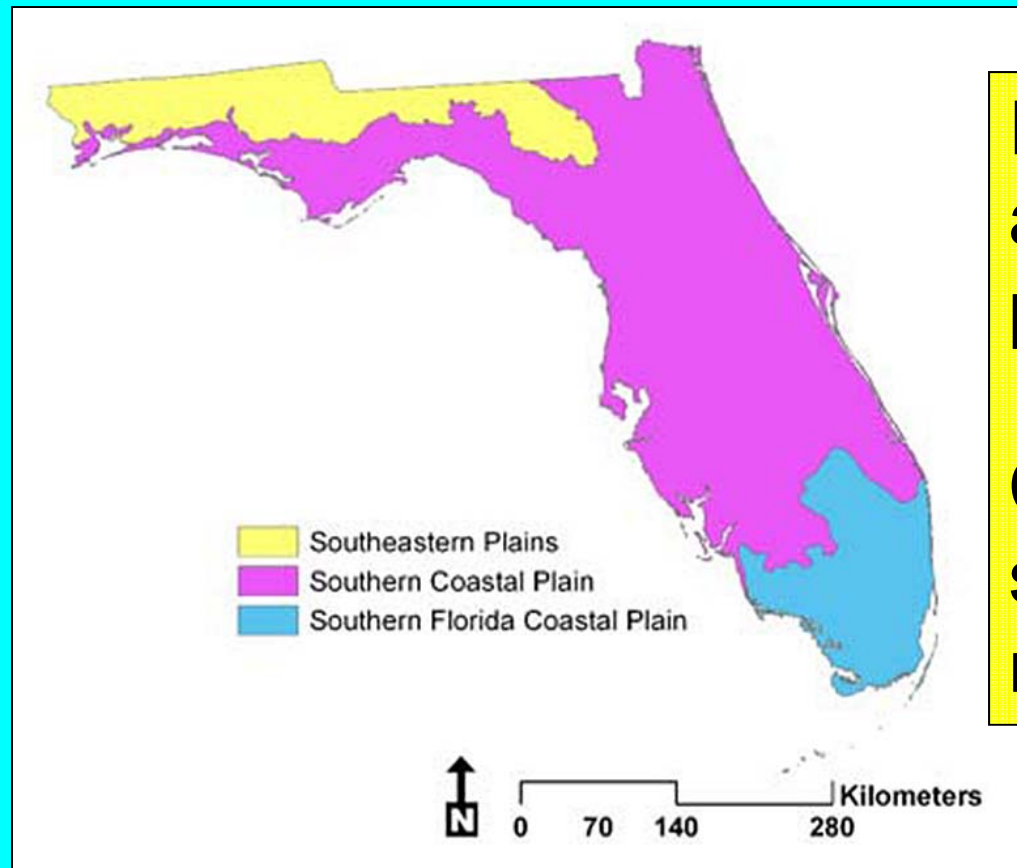




Sow Florida Ecotype Seed

- North Florida
 - Mid-September to mid-October
- Central Florida
 - Mid-October to mid-November
- South Florida
 - November to December

Use Seed Adapted to Florida



Ecoregions, not
areas defined by
political borders

Climate, weather,
soils, hydrology,
microbes, etc.



Use Species For Your Region

- Florida Plant Atlas

<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>

- Florida Native Plant Society

http://www.fnps.org/pages/plants/landscape_plants.php



Florida Wildflowers

Growers Cooperative

Wildflower Seed and Plant Growers Association, Inc.

*We have realized our dream –
to create a native wildflowers growers cooperative.*



Floridawildflowers.com



Sow Florida Ecotype Seed



Sow Florida Ecotype Seed



Press Seed Into Soil



Use turf roller OR just walk over the seeded area



Optional – Mulch Lightly



Mulch Alert

Do not use pine straw mulch that has fronds of climbing fern (*Lygodium*)





After Sowing Seed – Short Term

1. Control weeds

(do not allow weeds to flower)

- Mow/string trim
- Hand weed
- Spot spray with glyphosate

2. Irrigate if needed; 0.25 – 0.33 in.

- Only to promote germ./emergence

3. DO NOT fertilize



After Sowing Seed – Long Term


1. Control weeds

- Hand weed
- Spot spray with glyphosate

2. Mow/string trim 1 – 2X per year

- Late November
- If earlier, after wildflower seed mature

3. DO NOT fertilize first 2 years

 **DO NOT TILL**



Soil Solarization

Significantly
reduces weeds



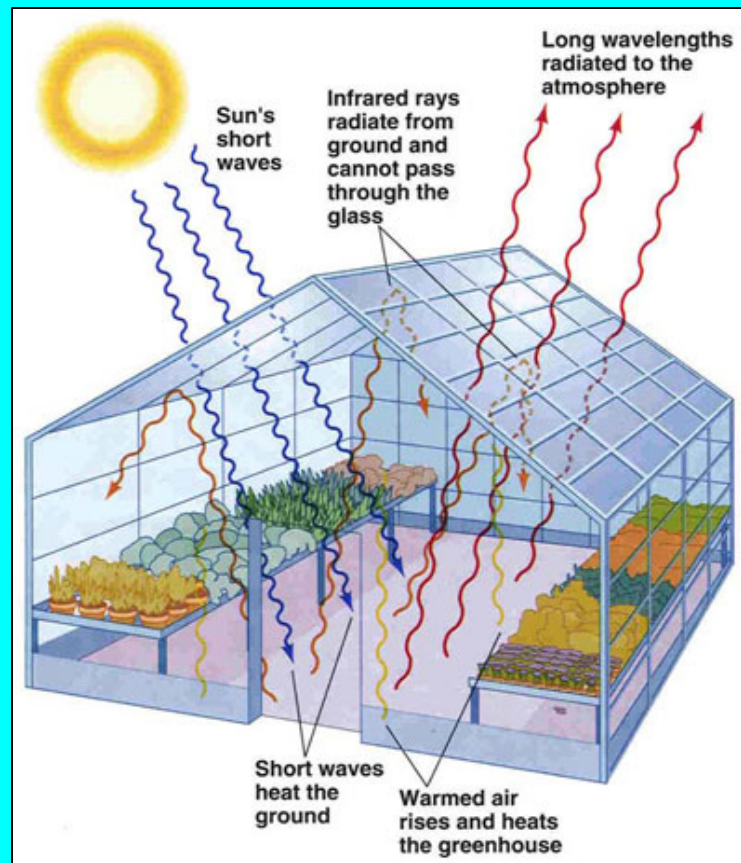
Soil Solarization


- Spring/summer
- Clear plastic
- Slightly moist, tilled soil
- 6-8 weeks



Soil Solarization


Greenhouse Effect





The “Why”

- **Seeds**
- **Soil**
- **Sun**



The “Why”

- **Seeds**
 - **Weed seeds**
 - **Wildflower seeds**
- **Soil**
- **Sun**



What Is A Weed?

**ANY plant that you do not want,
nonnative or native**



Weeds

- Major cause of failures
- Weed propagules in soil
 - Seeds
 - 100s to 1000s in top few inches
 - Tubers and rhizomes

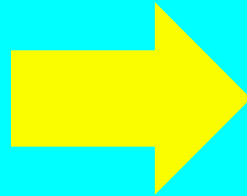
Ideal Site

- Sparse to moderate bahiagrass
- Sparse unwanted species

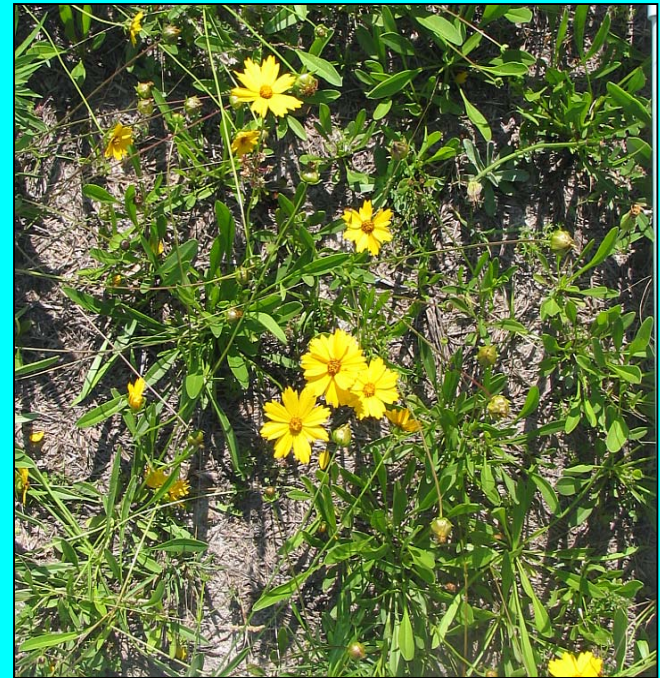
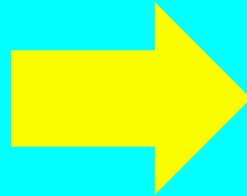


Mother Nature is Obsessed with Colonization

Disturbed Sites, Bare Soil



Disturbed Sites, Bare Soil





Colonization

- Seeds
 - Soil seed bank
 - Wind – plants near or far
 - Mowers
 - Use practices that favor wildflower colonizers

Wildflower Seeds

**Why purchase Florida ecotype seeds
from the
Florida wildflower seed co-op?**



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Growers Cooperative

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FloridaWildflowers.com

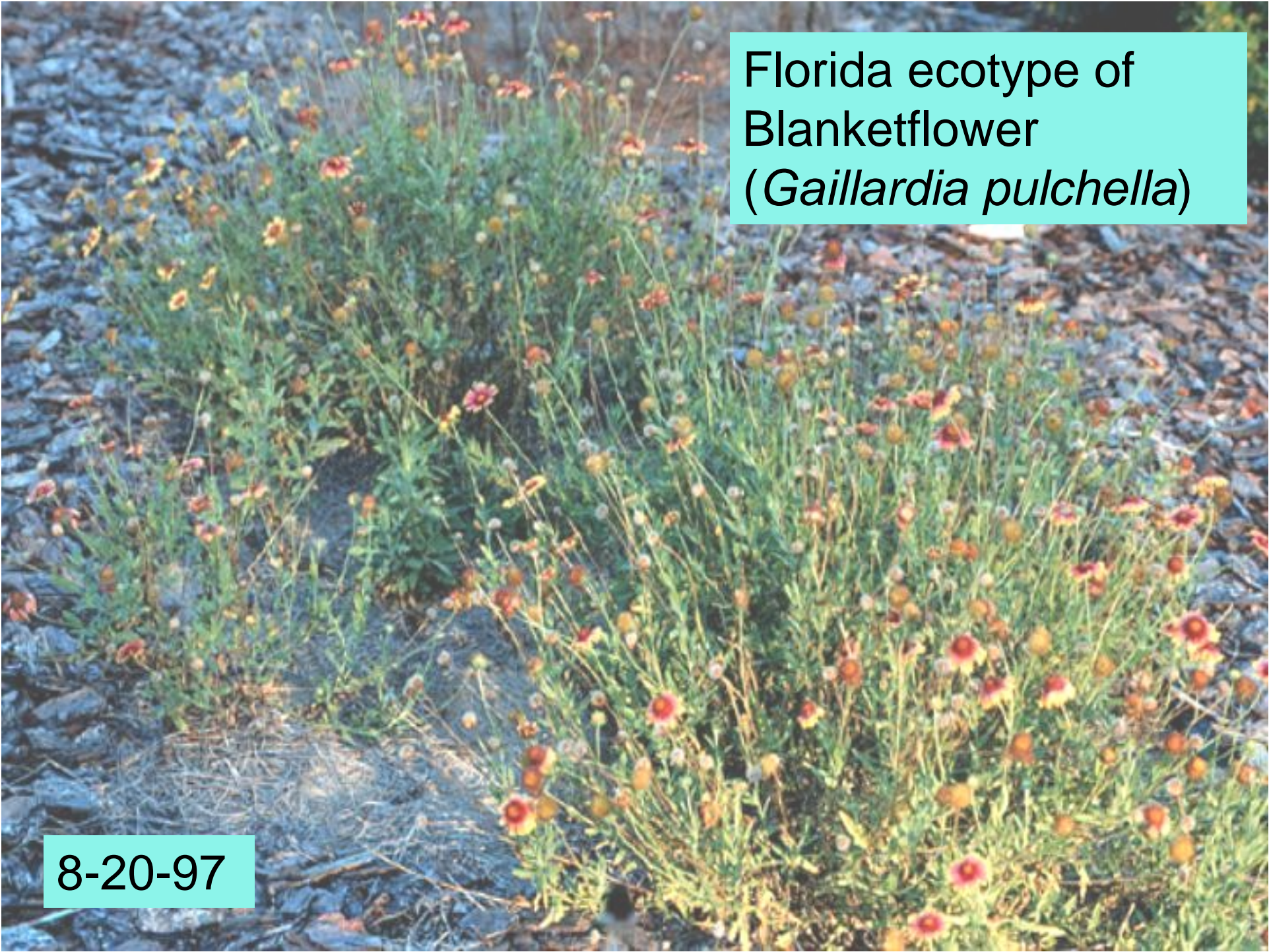
Florida Ecotype Seed

- Adapted to Florida's environment
- Genetically diverse plants
 - ↑ Diversity → ↑ Sustainability

Lanceleaf Tickseed *Coreopsis lanceolata*




North Florida ecotype (left) flowered first year after seeding; only sparse flowering of common garden variety (right).

A photograph of a Florida ecotype of Blanketflower (Gaillardia pulchella) growing in a rocky, gravelly area. The plant has numerous thin, upright stems with small, narrow green leaves. The flowers are small, daisy-like, and have a yellow center with reddish-orange petals. The ground is covered with dark, irregularly shaped rocks and some dry, brownish vegetation.

Florida ecotype of
Blanketflower
(*Gaillardia pulchella*)

8-20-97

A photograph of a garden bed. In the foreground, there is a large, tangled mass of dry, brown, and withered plant material, likely the remains of a blanketflower. The ground is covered with dark blue or black mulch. In the background, a healthy blanketflower with green leaves and numerous bright yellow flowers is visible. A white rectangular label is partially visible on the left side of the image, near the base of the dried plant.

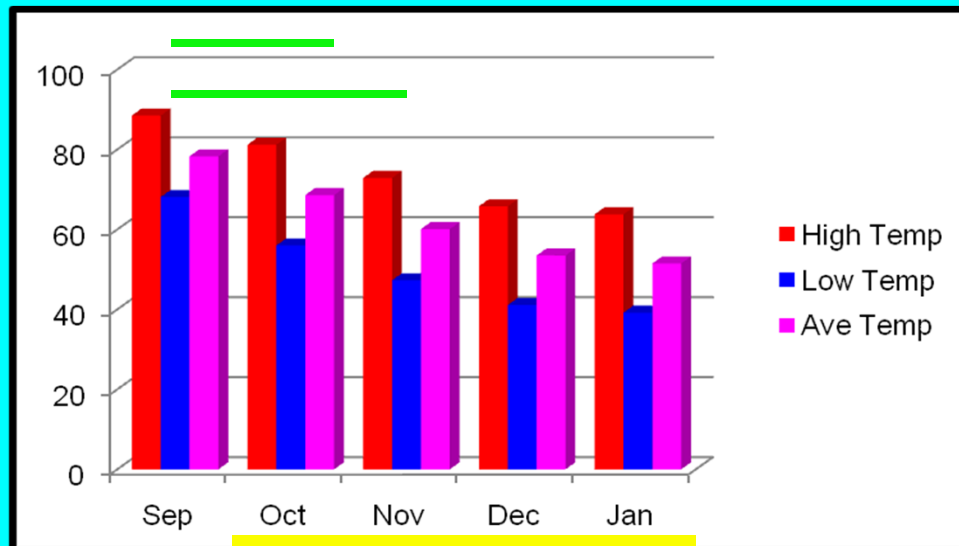
Blanketflower
(*Gaillardia pulchella*)
from large, national
seed supplier

8-20-97

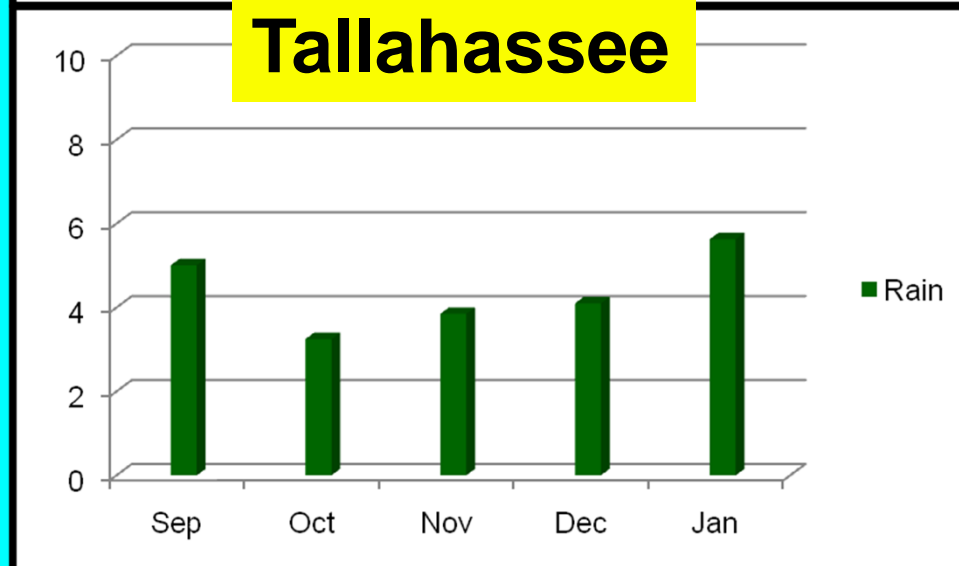
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Sowing Date – Temp. / Rain



Tallahassee



North Florida

Sow seed of:

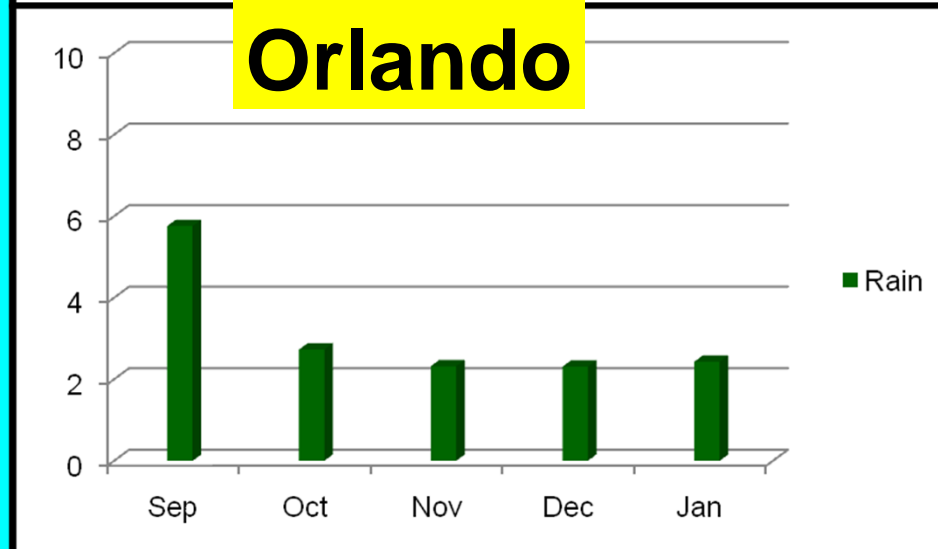
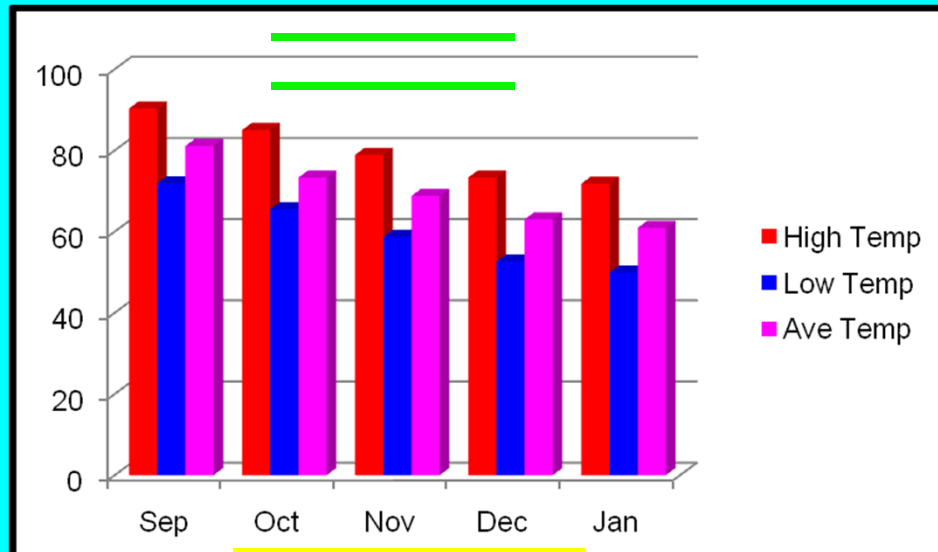
**Spring/summer
flowering species**

Mid-September to
late-October

**Fall flowering
species**

Mid-September to
mid-November

Sowing Date – Temp. / Rain



Central Florida

Sow seed of:

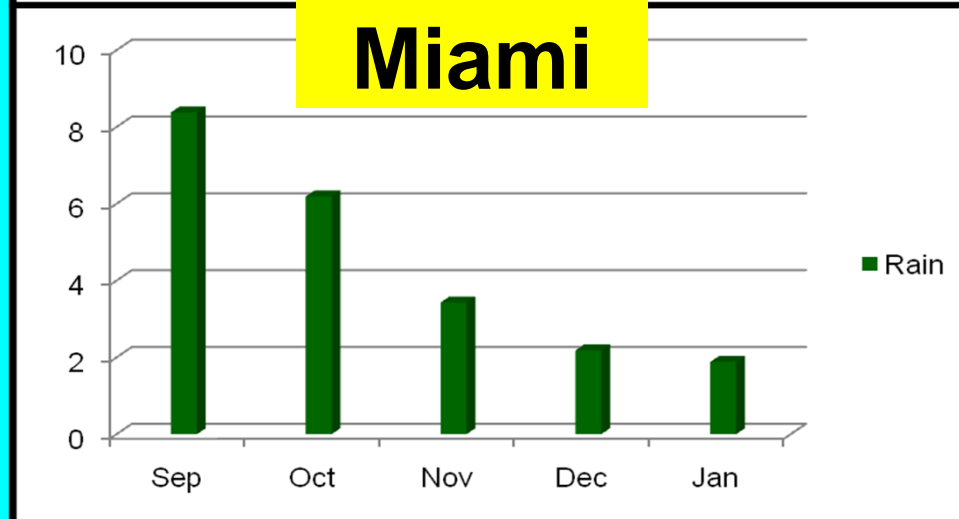
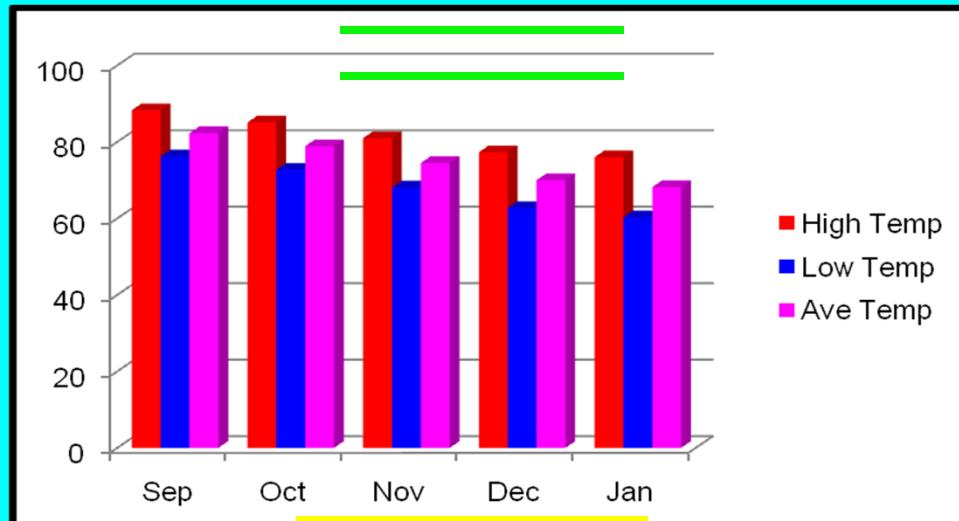
**Spring/summer
flowering species**

Mid-October to
early January

**Fall flowering
species**

Mid-October to
early January

Sowing Date – Temp. / Rain



South Florida

Sow seed of:

**Spring/summer
flowering species**

November to mid-
January (*Dec).

**Fall flowering
species**

November to mid-
January (*Dec).



- Well-drained
- pH – 5.5 to 6.5 is ideal
- Firm seed bed

Soil



Firm Seed Bed Important

Helps to ensure that sown seeds remain shallow in soil

- Many seeds need light to germinate
- Deep seeds may germinate but not emerge



After Sowing Seed

- Soil-to-seed contact
- 1/8 in. deep





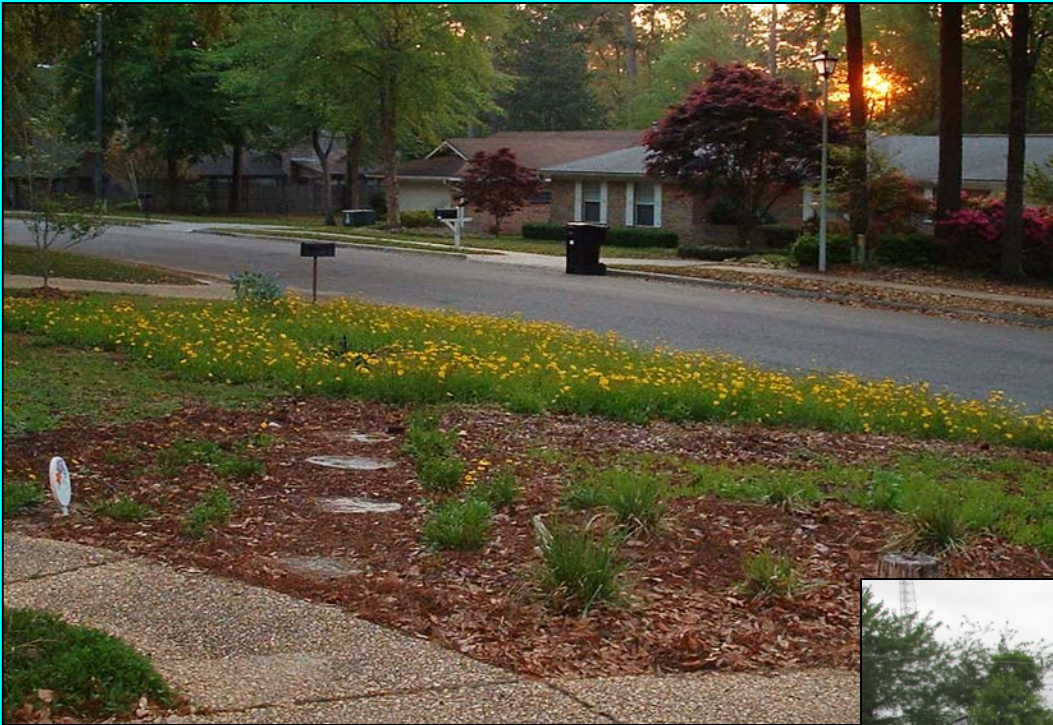
- Many wildflowers need about 6 hours of full sun to thrive
- Thriving wildflowers more sustainable

Why Glyphosate?



Why Glyphosate?





Thank you.



Jeff Norcini, PhD
Ecological Horticulturist

 **OecoHort, LLC**

Integrating ecology, biology, and horticulture

Native Wildflowers

- Roadside, residential, commercial
- Seed and container production

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