

Native Meadows **NEED** Management

In the first years of meadow growth, annual plants (weeds) are expected and may be abundant. Check your meadow once or twice a month to see what's growing.

If you don't manage your growing meadow, especially in the first two seasons, weeds will over-shadow and out-compete the desired native wildflowers and grasses.



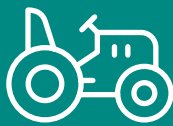
YEAR 1

Maintenance

("Sleep" phase)

Do at least one **HIGH MOW*** during the first growing season after seeding.

WHEN to mow: after weedy plants start to flower and before their seeds mature.



***HIGH MOW:**
blades set at
**30 cm or
12 inches**

YEAR 2

Maintenance

("Creep" phase)

Spot-spray or hand-pull noxious/invasive plants like:

- Spotted Knapweed
- Canada Thistle/ Sow-thistle/ Bull Thistle
- Teasel
- Wild Parsnip
- Canada Fleabane (Horseweed)
- Giant Ragweed
- Trees and shrubs (aim to prevent any wood encroachment)

HIGH MOW* highly weedy areas such as:

- Solid patches (more than 2 x 2 m) of noxious species
- Solid patches of White Sweet Clover or Yellow Sweet Clover
- Remove the cut plant material from the site

Spread additional native meadow seeds in the mowed patches.

YEAR 3

Maintenance

("Leap" phase) and Beyond

Mowing should only be done to treat specific management concerns.

WHEN to mow:

If cool season grasses (rye, fescue) are dominating, **HIGH MOW*** in spring. If warm season grasses (bluestem) are dominating, **HIGH MOW*** in the fall.

Mow at low speeds, use a flushing bar if possible, and only mow half the meadow in a single year.

Do periodic maintenance to control invasive species and remove trees and shrubs.