

## How to plant native grass and wildflower seeds:

1. Rake to lightly level and break up soil (perfection not required).
2. Scatter seeds reasonably evenly. This may be easier if you add some loose soil.  
Since seeds have different weights, mix them as you go .
3. Rake seeds in lightly. The ideal might be burying them about twice the seed's diameter.  
You want to give them a little moisture from soil and hide them from birds.
4. Optionally, cover with jute mesh to prevent erosion and keep seed moist.

## How to put down jute mesh

- 1.. Leaving 6-10 inches overlap at each end, and stretching to the 4' width, roll or unfold the jute mesh over the area. Adjust around obstacles.  
*If you are putting down more than one row:* On steep banks, mesh should go across the contours, upstream strips overlapping downstream about 4" so currents don't dislodge mesh. On reasonably level ground, overlap parallel strips about 4" in whatever direction minimizes tripping hazard.
2. Dig a trench about 6 – 8" deep at the upstream end. Push the overlap in, anchor it with 3-4 U-nails, refill the trench, and anchor the exposed edge with 3-4 U-nails.  
Tap U-nails in with a small sledgehammer or other object if you need to.
3. Working from the anchored end, anchor both edges with U- nails about 4' apart. Place them across the strong outer fibers. Then add a third row of U-nails running down the center, forming an X pattern.  
Stretch the cloth as you go to keep it level and reasonably taut, but not strained. Slack and loose edges can cause tripping. Strain will pull out the staples.  
One person can do one edge and then the other, or two can work across from each other. Work around obstacles as needed, trying to avoid cutting the cloth. If you do need to cut or raise the edges, use extra U-nails or trenching.
4. Trench and bury the downstream end as you did upstream. Use the same trench if you are adding a piece.

## How to build a habitat pile

Habitat piles aim to cover and food (such as insects) for birds, amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals. Build them out of flood zones and near other cover or food sources if you can. Think about fire risk in our dry summers. Avoid building where fire could easily ladder up to branches. Tiny twigs and leaves can become kindling. Be ready to scatter piles in summer if needed.

1. Using the largest logs that you can, create a stable base – a triangle or rectangle. It's fine to include rocks or a stump.
2. Using successively smaller branches, add open crosswise layers, with plenty of ventilation and space so critters can go in or out.

## How to plant small native plants from plastic containers

### 1. This is more fun if you work with a partner

2. Dig a hole barely bigger than the container. Heap the dirt to one side.
3. Without removing the plant, place the container in the hole and dig or refill so that the soil in the container is level with the soil outside or a bit lower. On a slope, have soil in the container level with the low point outside.
4. When the level is correct, press soil gently back in around the container to make a mold. Then carefully take the plant and container back out of the hole.
5. Remove the plant from the container. If soil is loose, spread your fingers across the top and/or cradle the sides carefully. If the plant does not come out easily, rap the container across the top sharply with a soil knife or other object, use a stick to press upward from the bottom, and/or put the container on its side and roll it while pressing on the top. If the plant still won't come out, cut the container.
6. If the plant has very dense roots, pull them gently apart and loosen those matted along the outside. Trim bottom roots if they are very tightly packed.
7. Place the plant carefully in the hole. If all goes well and it fits, pat the soil gently around the plant so there are no gaps. Water if possible.
8. Flag the plant. Consider setting upright sticks nearby to catch debris from upstream and discourage browsing animals. Pick up the plastic pot and label. Make sure not to leave any tools. You are good to go!

### Troubleshooting:

- **If soil is too crumbly for the mold technique above**, dig a slightly larger hole, take the plant out of the container as above, put it in the hole and fill in so soil levels are the same and there are no gaps on the side.
- If the soil falls away from the plant roots, so it doesn't fit the mold, gently fill in around the roots and on the sides, using the soil you dug out.
- If you can't get the hole deep enough, you can trim off a bit of the bottom roots. Or just try somewhere else. Do not plant with the plant's surface above the surrounding soil or bend the roots to make the plant fit.