



#### NATIVE PRAIRIE SEEDS

## Help protect the habitat of our heritage: Bring the beauty of the prairie to your backyard

Since 1916, the men and women of the National Park Service have been studying the lessons of the land. They have learned that many uniquely American plants live only within distinct habitats. Native species are being out-competed by invasive plants that spread rapidly and lack natural enemies.

Park Service scientists preserve our cultural landscapes by monitoring the health of the prairies, forests, and wetlands of America's Heartland. An informed public can help. To find out more about what you can do to protect the habitat of our heritage visit [www.invasivespecies.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.gov).

*"But though I am an old man, I am but a young gardener."  
—Thomas Jefferson in a letter to a friend, 1811*



This seed packet includes a mix of grasses and wildflowers native to the Heartland, such as big bluestem, purple coneflower, and purple prairie clover. A tablespoon of seed will cover approximately 62 square feet.

#### PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Prepare the seedbed by lightly tilling the soil. Roll or pack seedbed just before planting, making sure soil is firm, not loose. Mix moist sand with seed at a rate of 10 parts sand to one part seed. Scatter seeds evenly over the planting area.

Seeds can be planted at various times of the year. In fall and winter months, allow freezing and thawing to work the seeds into the soil. In spring and summer, supply some water during the first few weeks (especially during dry conditions) and after that leave the watering to nature.

Note: During the first year native perennials will establish roots and are not noticeable aboveground. Keep area mowed to 4-6 inches the entire first season to reduce competition from annual weeds.



[www.nature.nps.gov/im/units/htln](http://www.nature.nps.gov/im/units/htln)

