

Volunteer

Professional

Volunteer + Professional



Mix 'N Match Meadow

Image Source: Peter Gorman, "Rough Blazing-Star," 01 September 2008 via Flickr, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.



**working
with lots**

A FIELD GUIDE



The Mix 'N Match Meadow is a Michigan native meadow designed for single color impact.

The two plant mix choices in this meadow are easy to grow, and will add color to your block while creating habitat and attracting birds and bees. This pollinator friendly design offers two color options: purple and yellow. The Mix 'N Match Meadow is guaranteed to brighten any lot!

For more information refer to [DFC-lots.com](https://dfc-lots.com)

What is the lot design likely to cost?

The estimated cost of the Mix 'N Match Meadow is high (\$2,500 – \$5,500) and based on utilizing volunteer labor, seed mix, and potted plants. To save money, you can buy smaller pots or plugs. The cost assumes that residents or volunteers have access to basic safety gear and garden tools.

How much upkeep will this lot design require?

This lot design requires a medium level of maintenance to thrive. Maintenance will include weeding and watering the meadow, particularly during the first two growing seasons while the meadow establishes itself. The meadow should be mowed once a year in the late fall or early spring. The hedge should be pruned annually once it reaches the desired height.

Will the installation of this lot design require a professional?

The installation of this lot design should not require professional assistance if you, with the help and support of friends, family, or neighbors, would like to construct this lot design. Refer to the Step-By-Step section for guidance. If you do not have the required support or feel unable to tackle this lot design, please seek professional assistance.

How long will it take to install this lot design?

While people tackle projects in different ways and at different speeds, the Field Guide estimates the installation time of this lot design to be one full weekend with the help of at least three to five healthy adults or youth. The Field Guide assumes the lot is 'construction ready,' and all equipment and materials required for the lot design have been acquired and are ready to use.

Cost	\$50 - 1,000	\$1,000 - 2,500	\$2,500 - 5,500	\$5,500 +
People	Volunteer	Professional	Volunteer + Professional	
Experience	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	
Upkeep	Low	Medium	High	
Stormwater	Good	Better	Best	
Location	Residential Lot in Full Sun or Part Sun			

Mix 'N Match Meadow

Examples of Hedges with Meadow Plantings



1 - Boxwood



2 - Hedge Around Meadow

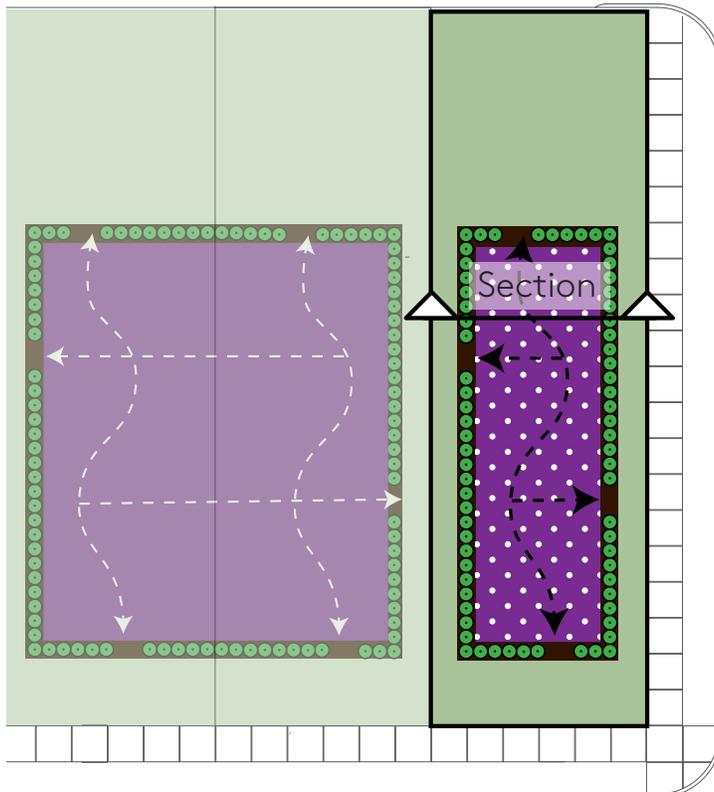


3 - Hedge Around Perennials

Section



Where Do I Grow?



The Mix 'N Match Meadow can be constructed on a single lot or multiple lots and is suitable for a corner property. The images below show examples of wildflowers included in the purple meadow option.



4 - Blazing Star



5 - Aster



6 - Purple Cone Flower

- Evergreen Hedge
- Mix 'N Match Meadow
- Mulch
- Grass or Optional Groundcover

Image Source: 1) Martin Kenny, "Box Hedge - shallow DOF edition." 10 December 2011 via Flickr, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0; 2) J.-H. Jansen, "Schultenhof Mettingen Bauerngarten 8.jpg." July 2010 via Wikimedia, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0; 3) Flipsockgrrl, "Hedging the blues." 19 November 2011 via Flickr, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0; 4) Peter Gorman, "Rough Blazing-Star." 01 September 2008 via Flickr, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0; 5) Tom Potterfield., "Symphyotrichum leave 'Bluebird'" 25 September 2011 via Flickr, CC-BY-NC-SA 2.0; 6) Jordan Meeter., "Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea)." 07 August 2008 via Flickr, CC-BY-2.0

Before You Start

'Construction Ready'

This lot design assumes that you have prepared the lot to a 'construction ready' state.

'Construction Ready' refers to a lot that is clean and clear of trash, hazardous objects, unwanted trees, brush and vegetation, fences, and other unwanted structures.

It may be necessary to remove grass in preparation for your lot design. Refer to the Remove Your Grass box located on the right hand side of this page for more information.

Is there an available water source near your lot? Consider how and where you will access water during and after construction to ensure that your plants can establish.

If your lot is not ready for construction, refer to the [Clean + Green](#) lot design.

You can find the lot design at DFC-lots.com.

Call Before You Dig

Locate underground utilities before beginning your lot design. MISS DIG provides a free service to Michigan residents by locating and marking utilities on requested properties. Call (800) 482-7171 or 811 at least three days before you plan to start digging on your lot.

Test Your Soil

Harmful pollutants have made their way into many urban soils. To proceed with awareness, consider having your soil tested before construction. Two great options are available:

Soil testing is free to members of Keep Growing Detroit's Garden Resource Program. Call (313) 757-2635 for more information or visit detroitagriculture.net.

If you are not yet a member, you can work directly with Michigan State University's (MSU) Extension Program. They have a Home Lawn and Garden Soil Test Mailer for \$25. For more information call (888) 678-3464 or visit msusoiltest.com.

If you are concerned about the presence of lead or other contaminants in your soil, call the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at (866) 691-5323 or (800) 424-LEAD.

Remove Your Grass

Need to remove grass in areas where you are constructing your lot design?

There are many ways to remove unwanted grass. The first is to remove the grass and its root system by digging up the grass. Another option is to cover your lot with cardboard or a plastic tarp to smother your grass in darkness. It will take several weeks, but after being covered, the dead grass will be easier to remove.

Till Safely

Before you till, inspect your lot for signs of buried concrete or rubble that was not removed during the cleanup stage. Large debris can ruin tiller blades.

When tilling, wear appropriate safety gear, such as covered boots with socks, long pants, safety glasses, dust mask, and ear protection. Make sure you understand the safe operating procedures of your tiller. Refer to the user's manual.

What You Need: Shopping List

Shopping List

The shopping list provides a breakdown of potential materials, tools, and resources required to construct this lot design.

This shopping list is designed for a single lot (30 by 100 feet).

Tools + Resources

Suggested Tools

- **Marking Paint and Tape Measure**
- **Safety Gear:** Gloves, heavy work boots, tall socks, pants, long sleeve shirts, dust masks, protective eye wear, ear plugs, and hard hats (if using heavy machinery)
- **Garden Tools:** Spades, shovels, rakes, trash bags, and wheelbarrows
- **Tiller**, 6 inch depth (optional)

Potential Water Sources

- **Garden Hose with potential extension hose**
- **Sprinkler**
- **Rain Barrel in addition to other water source**

Field Guide Resources

Resources are available on the Field Guide's web site.

- **Clean + Green**
- **Perennials + Grasses Planting Detail**
- **Bulb Planting Detail**

Materials List

Materials

- **Mulch or Wood Chips**, 5 cubic yards
- **Germination Blankets**, 2 rolls (8 by 112.5 feet), used for the meadow area

Purple or Yellow Meadow Planting Options

- **Purple or Yellow Meadow seed mix**, 7 ounces of seed
- **Annual Cover Crop**, 10 ounces of seed
- **Green Gem Boxwood**, 68 pots

Remaining Lot (Optional)

Groundcover

- **Low-Maintenance Fescue Mix**, 9 pounds of seed
- **Germination Blanket**, 2 rolls (8 by 112.5 feet)

Mix 'N Match Meadow Step-By-Step

Let's Start

Want to create the Mix 'N Match Meadow but don't want to hire a professional? Here are a few guiding principles to help you construct your lot design.

 Check off tasks as you go along.

Lot Design Steps

Volunteer:

- Prepare Your Lot
- Plant Hedge
- Sow Meadow
- Maintain Your Lot Design
- Sow Remaining Lot

 **Annual Cover Crop is used to establish the Purple or Yellow Meadow and does not require annual re-seeding.**

Prepare Your Lot

Select the best location for your meadow. Use marking paint and a tape measure to map out the size, shape, and dimensions of your design.

The Field Guide recommends a 60 by 22 foot (1,320 square feet) meadow enclosed by a hedge.

Plant Hedge

Sunny to partly-sunny plantings are recommended for the hedge. If your lot is in shade, seek alternate planting options.

Place plants in the desired location, then remove plastic pots and plant.

The Field Guide recommends adding three inches (5 cubic yards) of wood chips or mulch to the hedge area. Do not place mulch on top of seed bed as this would restrict germination. Adding wood chips or mulch will help suppress weeds.

For more guidance on planting perennials refer to the [Perennials + Grasses Planting Detail](#).

Sow Meadow

The soil should be prepared for seeding by scarifying, raking, or tilling the soil four to six inches deep to loosen up any compaction, allowing for easier seed germination and better water infiltration. Tilling should not be done without an assessment of buried cement, debris, or large rocks. Be sure to select the correct size of machinery for the job.

Seeding should take place in either spring (mid-May to mid-June) or fall (mid-October to end of November). Michigan Wildflower Farm's Purple or Yellow seed mix and Annual Cover Crop seed mix are good options for the Mix 'N Match Meadow; similar mixes are available from other suppliers.

Mix 'N Match Meadow Step-By-Step

The Purple and Yellow Meadow mixes are not standard seed mixes but can be assembled by seed nurseries, including the Michigan Wildflower Farm.

Michigan Wildflower Farm suggests five ounces of Purple or Yellow Meadow seed mix mixed with eight ounces of Annual Cover Crop seed mix per 1,000 square feet. **For the meadow area in this lot design (60 by 22 feet), the Field Guide recommends seven ounces of either Purple or Yellow Meadow seed mix and ten ounces of Annual Cover Crop seed mix.**

Once seeds have been mixed, spread seed across the entire meadow area. You can do this by hand or with a hand-cranked whirlwind seeder. You may need to do this several times to get even coverage. Gently water seedlings daily until they are four to six inches in height.

Placing a thin layer of straw or a germination blanket over seeded areas will help ensure that your seed establishes by keeping seeds from blowing away and protecting them from birds. **Two 8 by 112.5 foot single net germination blankets will cover the meadow area.** Germination blankets or straw can be purchased at most nurseries and garden stores, including Detroit Farm and Garden.

○ Maintain Your Lot Design

A meadow requires care and maintenance to thrive. The Mix 'N Match Meadow will require weeding, watering, and mowing. **In the first year, cut your meadow back to four to six inches whenever it reaches above ten inches in height.**

After the first year, continue weeding, and mow your meadow in late fall or early spring to keep the meadow at its best. It will take about three years for the meadow to establish.

The hedge is low-maintenance; however, it will require water and weeding while it is getting established within the first two years. **Once your hedge is established, it will shade out the majority of weeds.** Your hedge can be pruned at any time to create the desired height. Add mulch annually to help suppress weed growth.

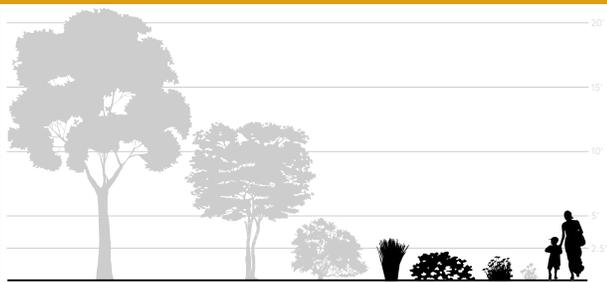
Meadows are a work in progress. If you feel your meadow needs more color, it is okay to add additional native seed mixes and plants. Be creative and make it your own!

Mix 'N Match Meadow Step-By-Step



Visit the Resources page on the Field Guide's web site (DFC-lots.com) to discover other vendors and places to buy plants.

Average Height of Plants



Grasses, Small Shrubs, and Perennials

○ Sow Remaining Lot

If you are seeking a lower maintenance alternative to a traditional lawn, the Field Guide recommends a fescue seed mix. **If you follow the Mix 'N Match Meadow lot design you will need approximately nine pounds of fescue seed mix for the remaining lot (1,680 square feet) and two 8 by 112.5 foot rolls of single net germination blankets.**

This family of floppy grasses is drought-resistant and requires one cutting (in August or September) per year. Fescue can be established in full sun to shade and should be seeded in spring (mid-March to mid-May) or fall (August to September).

Soil should be prepared for seeding by scarifying, raking, or tilling the soil four to six inches deep to loosen up any compaction. This will allow for easier seed germination and better water infiltration. Apply seed mix to damp lot.

Sow seed across the remaining lot by using a seed spreader or by hand. The Field Guide recommends a seed rate of five pounds per 1,000 square feet. Gently water seedlings daily until they are four to six inches in height. Placing a thin layer of straw or a germination blanket over seeded areas will help ensure that your seed establishes by keeping seeds from blowing away and protecting them from birds. Germination blankets or straw can be purchased at most nurseries and garden stores.

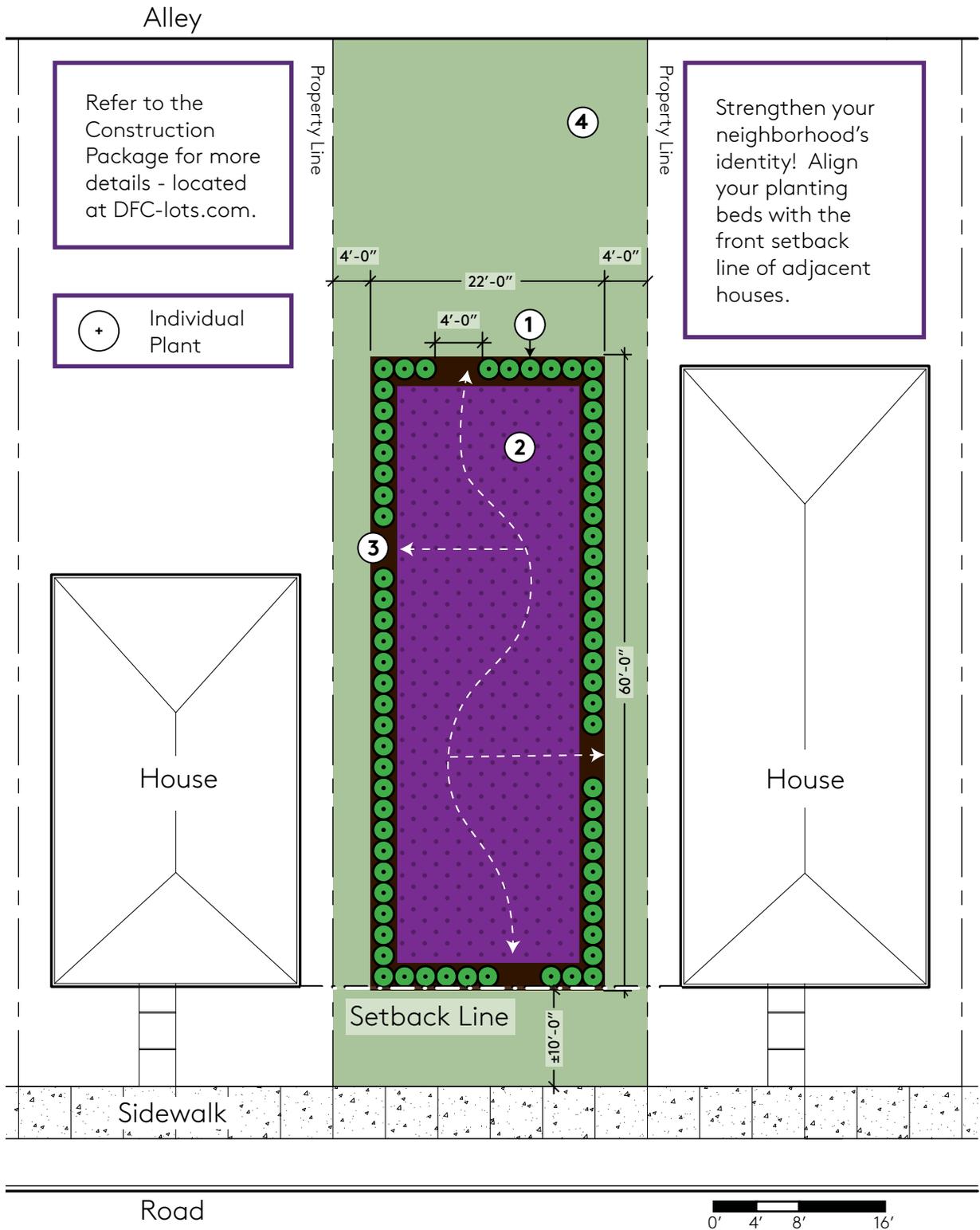
Once established, grass will not require supplemental watering except during unusually dry periods. Eco-Turf Low Maintenance Fescue Mix is one recommended seed mix and can be purchased through Michigan Wildflower Farm.

Other Field Guide lot designs can be used as groundcovers. Check out the web site for additional options and ideas.

Next Level: If you would like to bring additional color to your grass you can always plant bluebells, crocuses and/or daffodils to create a decorative show in spring. Bulbs should be planted in the fall.

For more guidance on bulb planting refer to the [Bulb Planting Detail](#).

Mix 'N Match Meadow Lot Design



- 1 Hedge (Boxwood)
- 2 Mix 'N Match Meadow
- 3 Mulch
- 4 Grass or Optional Groundcover

Planting Option 1: Full Sun to Part Sun



Common Milkweed¹
Asclepia syriaca⁺



Smooth Aster²
Aster laevis⁺



Rough Blazing Star³
Liatris aspera⁺



Bee Balm⁴
Monarda fistulosa⁺



New England Aster⁵
Aster novae - angliae⁺



Purple Coneflower⁶
Echinacea purpurea



Little Bluestem⁷
Schizachyrium scoparius⁺



Green Gem Boxwood⁸
Buxus 'Green Gem'
24" Height x 24" Width
Quantity: 68 pots

Purple Meadow

Mixing seven ounces of Purple Meadow seed mix with ten ounces of Annual Cover Crop seed mix is recommended for the Purple Meadow lot design.

The Purple Meadow is not a standard seed mix but can be assembled by Michigan Wildflower Farms.

Common Milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca* (5% of mix)

Smooth Aster, *Aster laevis* (15% of mix)

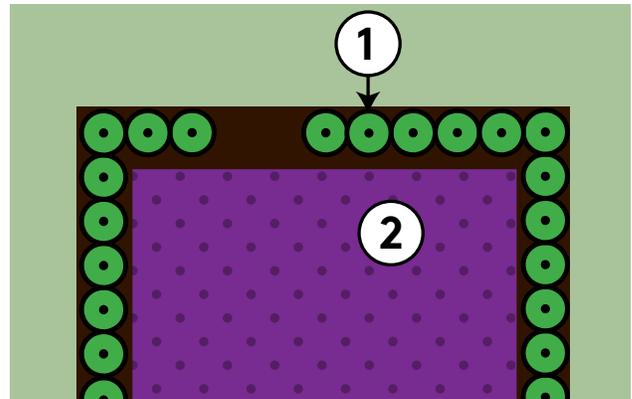
New England Aster, *Aster novae-angliae* (15% of mix)

Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea* (20% of mix)

Rough Blazing Star, *Liatris aspera* (10% of mix)

Bergamot, *Monarda fistulosa* (15% of mix)

Little Bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparius* (20% of mix)



Key

1 **Green Gem Boxwood**
(Space approximately two feet apart.)

2 **Purple Meadow**
(Seven ounces of Purple Meadow seed mix with ten ounces of Annual Cover Crop seed mix.)

Plant Sizes



Seeds: All plants (except Boxwood) can be purchased in seed form.



Pots: Boxwood can be purchased in one to five gallon pots. The size of pots can change based on availability.

Planting Option 2: Full Sun to Part Sun



Lanceleaf Coreopsis¹
*Coreopsis lanceolata**



Smooth Oxeye²
*Heliopsis helianthoides**



Black-Eyed Susan⁵
*Rudbeckia hirta**



Goldenrod⁴
*Solidago rigida & Solidago speciosa**



Evening Primrose³
*Oenothera biennis**



Yellow Coneflower⁴
Ratibida pinnata



Little Bluestem⁷
*Schizachyrium scoparium**



Green Gem Boxwood⁸
Buxus 'Green Gem'
24" Height x 24" Width
Quantity: 68 pots

Yellow Meadow

Mixing seven ounces of Yellow Meadow seed mix with ten ounces of Annual Cover Crop seed mix is recommended for the Yellow Meadow lot design.

The Yellow Meadow is not a standard seed mix but can be assembled by Michigan Wildflower Farms.

Lanceleaf Coreopsis, *Coreopsis lanceolata* (20% of mix)

Smooth Oxeye, *Heliopsis helianthoides* (15% of mix)

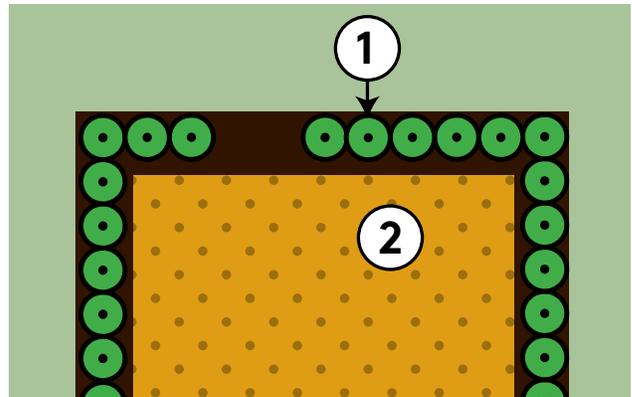
Evening Primrose, *Oenothera biennis* (5% of mix)

Yellow Coneflower, *Ratibida pinnata* (12.5% of mix)

Black-Eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia hirta* (12.5% of mix)

Goldenrod, *Solidago rigida & Solidago speciosa* (15% of mix)

Little Bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium* (20% of mix)



Key

1 **Green Gem Boxwood**
(Perennials should be spaced approximately two feet apart.)

2 **Yellow Meadow**
(Seven ounces of Yellow Meadow seed mix with ten ounces of Annual Cover Crop seed mix.)

Plant Sizes



Seeds: All plants (except Boxwood) can be purchased in seed form.



Pots: Boxwood can be purchased in one to five gallon pots. The size of pots can change based on availability.

Image Source: 1) Kristine Paulus, "Coreopsis Lanceolata." 20 June 2014 via Flickr, CC BY 2.0; 2) David Illig, "Roadside Iowa." 08 September 2011 via Flickr, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0; 3) Rachel Kramer, "Sunny side up." 30 July 2014 via Flickr, CC BY 2.0; 4) Psycho Delia, "Meadow Brown on Golden Rod." 13 July 2014 via Flickr, CC BY-NC 2.0; 5) BlueRidgeKitties, "Sundrops." 08 June 2010 via Flickr, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0; 6) Turn off your computer and go outside, "Yellow conflower." 28 July 2013 via Flickr, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0; 7) Quinn Dombrowski, "The blues." 01 August 2009 via Flickr, CC BY-SA 2.0; 8) Martin Kenny, "Box Hedge - shallow DOF edition." 10 December 2011 via Flickr, CC BY-SA 2.0.

Did You Know?

Professionals Can Help!

The Field Guide to Working With Lots provides a Construction Package for each lot design. The Construction Package includes information and details required for a professional to construct this design. On the Field Guide web site, use the [Construction Package](#) link located near the top of this lot design page to download and print. Your selected professional will then be able to provide a cost estimate and schedule based on the condition of your lot and the design you select.

Want to Hire Locally?

DFC-lots.com has a growing list of Detroit-based professionals and suppliers of landscape materials and services.

Still unsure of where to start?

Call (313) 294-LOTS or email fieldguide@detroitfuturecity.com for assistance.

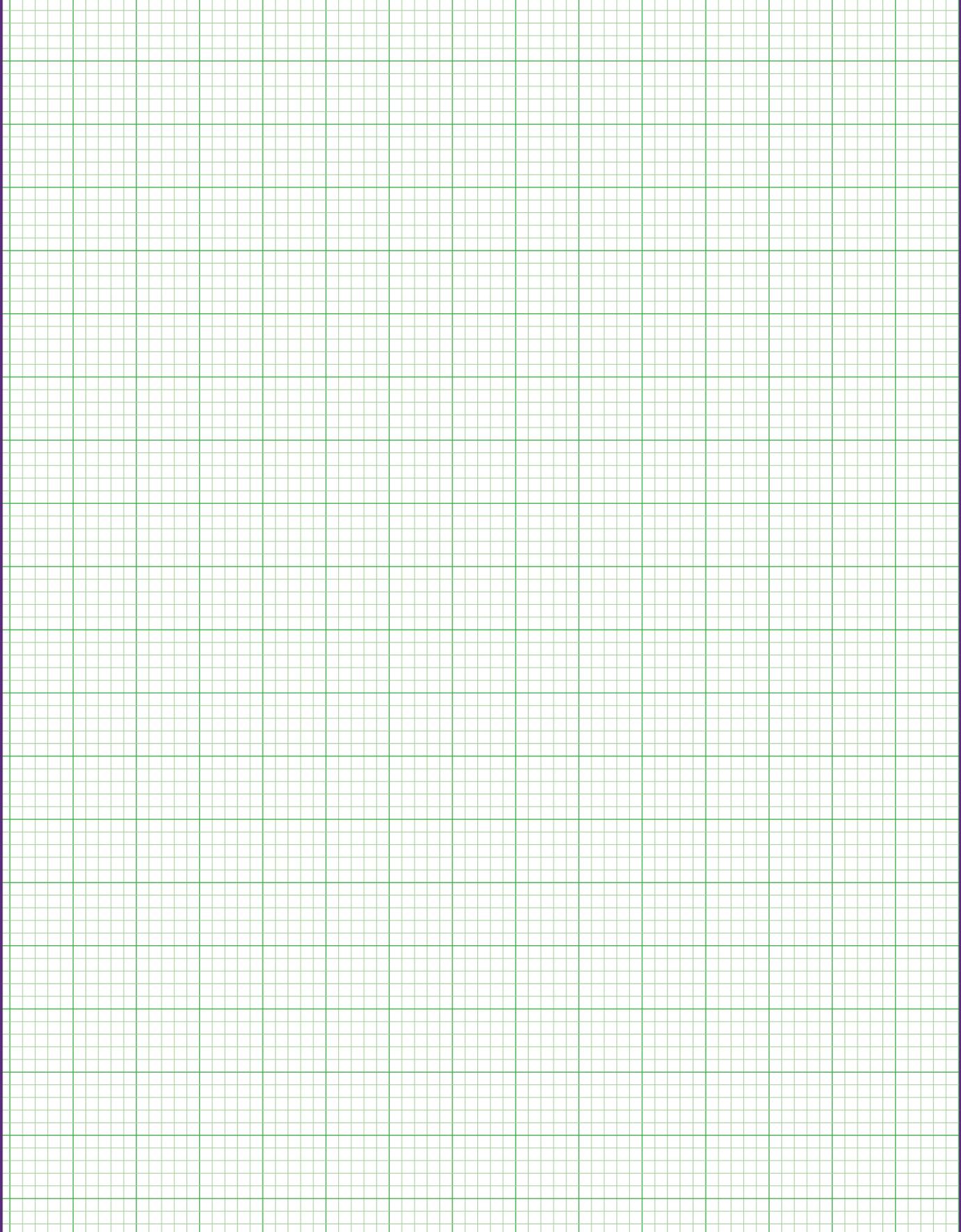
Helpful Facts

- The recommended plants for this lot design will attract Monarch Butterflies and other Detroit pollinators.
- Native plants have deep roots that help capture, hold, and slowly release stormwater.

Planting Tips

- The lot design offers two planting options: purple and yellow.
- A single color meadow offers a unique color display.
- Curious about a different color? Contact The Field Guide for additional assistance or check out one of the local seed mix distributors in the Resources area of the Field Guide's web site.
- Call ahead to be sure the nursery or garden store has the plants you need for your lot design.
- The best time to plant is spring or fall.
- Do not plant in extreme heat.
- Water after planting and as needed.
- Weed weekly or as needed.
- Adding one inch of compost to seeded areas will help enrich the soil.

Draw Your Lot





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**Visit DFC-lots.com
#DFClots**

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