

Tohono Chul Park Greenhouse
7366 N. Paseo del Norte Tucson, AZ 85704
www.tohonochulpark.org

Poppies and bluebells are just some of the colorful wildflowers seen around Tucson in the spring.

How to Plant Wildflowers

Wildflowers are not only beautiful, but they are easy too! Follow these steps and enjoy what you sow:

1. Find a place that you would like to plant wildflowers. Make sure that it is **weeded**, but **not sprayed** with pre-emergent or other herbicides, because you are planting seeds and the chemical cannot tell weeds from your seeds!
2. Choose the seeds you want to plant at Tohono Chul Greenhouse...if you are not sure what to try, ask the knowledgeable greenhouse staff.
3. Mix the seeds in a spreading medium such as sand, soil; mulch...about one tablespoon of seed for one cup of medium.
4. Rake the area you are planting in to the depth of 2 inches. A rototiller can be used to break up the soil prior to raking if the soil is too hard to till to this depth. **You do not have to go deeper than 2 inches** and don't remove the rocks, this isn't grass seeding. The rocks create microclimates that hold water, heat, and provide a little shade. Planting in decomposed granite can be very successful!
5. Disperse seeds evenly over the area. One tablespoon should easily cover 100 square feet (with some for the birds). Try to do this when the wind is calm.
6. Lightly rake the soil in one direction to set the seeds. **Do not rake Hard or more than Once...**you will cause the seeds to bunch up.
7. **Water** until the seeds germinate, then cut back the water to whatever they can handle...every other day...third day...weekly.
8. Protect the seedlings from Mr. Bunny, Mr. Squirrel, Mr. Piggy...you get the idea! Use chicken wire or hardware cloth to make cages or fencing while the plants are establishing...in some cases, such as ours, you can't beat the rodents, so keep the protection up! **No wives tale or voodoo methods work**, keep em out! The birds can have their 70% of the take, it will thin your stand, but that is good. If you are selfish and don't want to pay this graft, put up netting over the area...but expect to be letting doves out from time to time, since they can somehow figure out how to get in, but not out.

