



**Pollinators  
& Prairies**

Presented by  
 **Our Texas  
Our Future**  


# Guide to Growing a **Pollinator-Friendly** Pocket Prairie



  
**Native Prairies  
Association of Texas**

Thanks to NPAT for their guidance



## Step 1

### Choose your site



#### Light

Ideally pick a sunny spot; full sun is best.



#### Size

Choose a manageable size for your yard or area.

## Step 2

### Prepare the Site

#### 01. Remove unwanted species.

Often the sod or existing vegetation will need to be killed and/or removed to allow new plants to grow and thrive.

#### 02. Organic Herbicide

Mix 1 gallon of 10-20 percent white vinegar, 2 ounces (or 4 tablespoons) orange oil or cleanser containing d-limonene and 2 ounces (or 4 tablespoons) dish soap. Expect to treat the existing vegetation multiple times before planting your pocket prairie.

#### 03. Eliminate existing grass

If you have grass, mow and cover with plastic sheeting to kill it before planting.

#### 04. Add Soil

Often imported soil has been added on top of the natural soil types found in the ecoregion. You can find your area's natural soil type on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's ecoregions in Texas webpage. If you want to prepare your site with the naturally occurring soil for your ecoregion. Otherwise, mix in a layer of compost to the soil that you have.



## 05. Border

Create a clear border using mulch, stones, or edging to separate your prairie from lawns. (Many HOAs may not allow pocket prairies without prior permission, or provide specific guidance: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center offers a [Guide to Discussing growing pocket prairies with your HOA](#).)

## Step 3 Select Your Plants

### ★ Choose native species

Select prairie plants using both seeds and live native plants.

- **Start with native plants and native wildflower or prairie seed mixes** that work best for your ecoregion. Also select a variety of these that will provide biodiversity and bloom across spring, summer and fall, for year-round pollinator habitat.
- **Be sure to include native grasses:** Grasses support wildlife and help conserve water. Prairie seed mixes will include native grasses.

## Step 4 Plant Your Pocket Prairie



### Make it a team effort

If you can, invite family, friends, or neighbors to help with planting your pocket prairie.



## Seeding

Spread seeds over prepared soil. For better distribution, consider mixing the seeds with sand. Use foot stomping or a roller to press them into the soil.

Option: Create seed balls for fun planting. Make one for each square foot.



## Live plants

Introducing live plants to your pocket prairie can increase plant establishment and introduce some additional interest and diversity. Space them out 2-3 feet apart.

# Step 5

## Watering Your Pocket Prairie

### ★ First Year

Water new plants and seeds deeply once or twice a week, especially during dry spells.

### ★ After Establishment

Gradually reduce watering frequency. Many native plants, including those grown from seed, can thrive with natural rainfall.



## Step 6

### Observe and Document



#### Enjoy your pocket prairie

Watch as pollinators find food and shelter in your garden.



#### Record observations

Use the iNaturalist app to track wildlife and plant species.



#### Share online

Create a Facebook or Instagram album or page for your prairie to document progress and educate others. #pollinatorsandprairies #pollinatorsthrive #prairiesthrive (research best hashtags to create reach, such as #nativegardening)