



## MNL's 5 P's of Prairie Establishment

### Plan

- *Goal: Identify and characterize your site*
  - How large is the intended planting area (how many square feet)?
  - What type of soil and moisture? Is it well drained or moist soil?
  - How much sunlight?
  - Is water available if needed?
  - Let us help you choose a seed mix that meets these site conditions

### Prep

- *Goal: Your site is devoid of vegetation and weed seeds*
  - Following label instructions, spray your site with Roundup or similar product to kill existing turf and other vegetation (Roundup is not a residual, so it will not affect your new seeds)
  - Till site to loosen the soil
  - A second round of spraying/tilling might be necessary if weeds re-emerge
  - Site can be raked or harrowed to create a smooth seed bed if necessary

### Plant

- *Goal: Seed is evenly spread over entire site, and in good contact with the soil*
  - Split the seed mix in half
  - Broadcast one half of seed over entire site by hand or with a spreader
  - Broadcast other half of seed over entire site (to ensure coverage of the area)
  - Lightly rake, drag, or roll site to promote seed-to-soil contact
  - Weed-free mulch or erosion blanket can be installed after seeding to minimize erosion and retain soil moisture (especially on sloped sites)

### Promote

- *Goal: Prevent the spread of weeds and allow sunlight to reach natives*
  - **Mowing is crucial in year 1!** It will prevent weeds from seeding out and allow light to penetrate to the soil
  - Set your mower to the highest height and mow the site each time the vegetation reaches a height of 10"
  - Alternatively, use a weed whip or scythe to trim to a height of 4-6"
  - Year 2 maintenance will consist of mowing, trimming, or spot spraying as needed
  - A controlled burn is recommended in year 4, and every 3-5 years after

### Patience

- *Goal: Your prairie will take time to establish, be patient!*