



Road Show

Habitat Seed Mix for Drive Roads

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Seed Mix for planting on dirt roads, box row, or edge row to provide insect habitat

Insect ecologists look for places where they can get some plant diversity and some flowers to attract and hold beneficial insects. This mix will grow on drive roads through fields with low to moderate traffic.

Latin name	Common Name	Beneficials Attracted	Pests Managed	Flowers in CA	Description	Color	Size Inches excluding fl
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	White Yarrow	Hoverfly, Wasp, Lady beetle	Mite, scale, aphid, whitefly, caterpillar	Apr-Jul	Spreading Fern Like	white	8
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	birdsfoot trefoil	Bees	Polination	Jun-Jul	clover	yellow	6
<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	strawberry clover	Bees	Polination	Jul-Aug	clover	red	6
<i>Plantago ovata</i> (=P. insularis)	woolly Plantain, desert indianwheat, desert plantain, blond psyllium	Lady beetle	Aphid		basal rosette	white	6
<i>Anthemis nobilis</i>	chamomile	Lady beetle, hoverfly, tachinid fly, lacewing, wasp	Aphid, whitefly, caterpillar	Apr-Jun	creeping herb	white	10
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	sweet alyssum	Lady beetle, hoverfly	Aphid, caterpillar	Apr-Aug successive pl	creeping groundcover	white	5
<i>Viola cornuta</i>	violet, Johnny-jump-up			Apr-Jul	basal rosette	blue/red/white	5
<i>Festuca longifolia</i>	hard fescue	Predatory mites	Mites	Jul-Aug	grass		8
<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>	Idaho fescue, bunchgrass	Predatory mites	Mites	Jul-Aug	grass		10
<i>Festuca (Volpia) megalura</i>	foxtail fescue, Zorro fescue	Predatory mites	Mites	Apr-Jun	grass		5

Application: Cover drive roads through fields to reduce dust, erosion, and provide habitat for beneficial insects to aid biocontrol in neighboring fields. Also low water use lawn substitute. Mix should perform well all of continental USA with sufficient rain or irrigation, except the southeast. Mowed in spring, straw will help reduce dust in summer. Cover will reduce erosion with seasonal rain.

Planting Rate: 22 lb per planted acre, or 8 ounce per 100 foot of 10 foot wide road.

Seed bed: Prepare scratched surface with average particle size in the ½ to 1 inch range. Broadcasting seed will bury about ¼ inch. Keep moist until comes up (approximately 2 weeks). Water through season to maintain bloom.

Maintenance: mow to 5 inch as needed to keep road passable and decrease competition from taller growing plants. Ideal tool for maintaining vegetated roads is a core plug aerator. This is routinely used on turf for playing fields and golf courses. This reduces compaction, increases aeration, while maintaining road integrity. Road cover mix success is 10% plant selection, 90% reducing compaction. There is some trade off from increasing plant growth, reducing dust with serviceability of the road. For stabilizing slopes consider installing plastic grids in soil (geogrid, geocell, geoblock, geoweb or terracell – cellular confinement system) to reduce tire wear of grass and soil compaction.