

favorite wildflowers for sunny, dry locations is *Asclepias tuberosa*, orange milkweed, a perennial that requires no attention.

Your question is provocative and stimulating. Perhaps our readers will supply examples of features at their courses so that we can publish a follow-up.

Q.—At our club we are considering the purchase of an hydraulic seeder. Recently we have heard that there have been poor results from the use of this type of equipment, especially when seeding in connection with the use of wood pulp. Can you help us in our thinking? (Maryland)

A.—Hydraulic seeding with the use of wood cellulose pulp has produced enough failures to cause us to stop and take a second look. When the "One-shot" method is used the tank is loaded with everything required; seed, limestone, fertilizer, inoculant (if a legume is included) and wood pulp. The agitated slurry is sprayed on the area and the job is considered finished. Seed germinates easily and quickly in the wood pulp. If rain falls frequently, or if the area can be irrigated, success is assured. But, if the seed germinates in the pulp, then dry weather ensues, the wood pulp mat dries and draws away from the soil. The isolated seedlings can not strike roots into the soil and—another failure is recorded.

Our firm recommendation is to follow the "Two-step Method." Step 1. Load the tank with seed, limestone, fertilizer and 200 lbs. per acre of wood pulp to "glue" the seed to the soil. Step 2. Follow at once with a full-rate application of mulch (1000-1200 lbs. of wood cellulose pulp or 2 tons clean straw per acre). This covers the seed to keep it cool and moist where, when it germinates, the roots strike into the soil at once.

Some contractors refuse to apply limestone thru the pump—they claim that it ruins the pump. Calcium is essential where Ca-deficient wood pulp is employed. This could be another reason for disappointments. □

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