



Trecia E. Neal

How to Plant Sedges in a Grid Pattern

How to Plant

To begin planting, make sure that you have taken care of any hardscaping needs that might need to be completed. Then begin laying out paths if those are indicated in your design.

Laying out the placement of paths and plants can be the most tedious part of the job; however, it is a critical part of this process.

1. Begin by laying out a planting 5'x5' grid. Begin by marking out every five feet of the area to be planted.

You could use [flagging](#) to do this, or anything else that you happen to have on hand. If flagging is used, I recommend using two different colors, one for every 5', and one for every 10'. This will help you see where you are in your design and in the landscape.

Here is a picture of a backyard for a grid example.



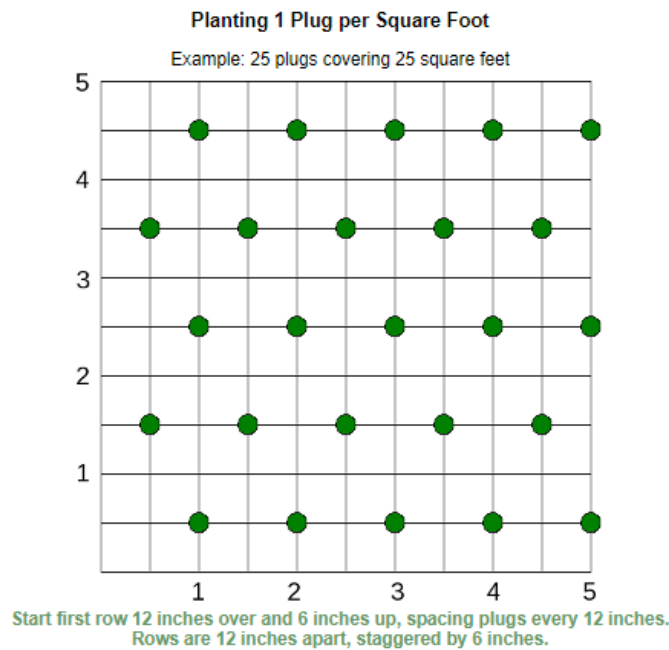
I didn't number all the way across because I figured you would get the 'idea'...

Successful native plantings use the idea of ‘**Green Mulch**’. This means that instead of using wood mulch for our planting areas, we are using plants.

In most designs that GGED creates, sedges are used as the Green Mulching layer. Sedges are amazing, underutilized plants in the nursery industry, although they are currently undergoing a renaissance thanks to homeowners interested in native landscaping.

They are often widely available in the trade, and there is a species for almost every growing condition that occurs. Please check [Lady Bird Johnson’s Wildflower Center](#) for accurate information on what is native in your area.

2. Define the area you want to plant and grid off the area. Sedges are usually planted on a 12”x12” to an 18”x18” grid system. You can either use a squared grid, or a diamond shaped grid (shown below).



3. If there are more than one species of Sedge in your design, you can either choose to alternate the species when laying out the grid or drift the species.

Drifting is when you artistically arrange the placement of plants in masses. This is a chance for you to utilize your artistic senses. Be sure to know the mature shape of your Sedge, as they all have varying textures and shapes.


















































My Sedges are finally planted...now what?

Now that you have the base layer of Sedges or other grasses installed in the planting area, it is time for you to put your personal touch into the bed.

Many of the massed beds that GGED designs utilize Sedges as the base layer, and then an assortment of other Perennials, or Spring Ephemerals to provide seasonal color and ecosystem services.

These species should be planted in the bed in drifts. It is important to consider the color and texture of the species that were selected for your landscape, and how you would like the finished bed to look after maturity. These species will grow and gradually spread through the area and provide a full, lush landscape.

Identify the blooming color of the species to be planted and start planting. Feel free to experiment with shaping the colors in your beds.

Matrix Diagram Drifting Example

Sedge  Flowering Perennial 

- Often, a simple [soil knife](#) is all you need.

If your soil is hard-packed clay, it would be helpful to wet the soil ahead of time so that digging is easier.

- For managing large numbers of plugs, I recommend using a Planting Drill. Here is the drill GGED purchased:

[Zoro Planter Drill](#)

I have ordered various sized augers from both Power Planter, and Custom Auger. Augers wear out when you are working in hardpan clay, so be sure to order several of each size.

The size of the auger you will need is determined by the size of the plants you are putting into the ground.

[Power Planters](#)

[Custom Augers](#)