



Vermont Wildflower Farm

Beautifying the world one plot at a time

STEP INTO Vermont Wildflower Farm's retail shop on Route 7 in Charlotte and you might get lost. Stroll past ceramic hummingbird feeders, note cards with stunning photographs of flowers in full bloom, and Polish stoneware in floral patterns. Then wander upstairs among the barrels of seed mixes packed in muslin bags and you may lose yourself in a meadow of poppies, cosmos, and cornflowers. You may dream you're picnicking among sunny coreopsis, inhaling the fragrance of pestemons. Or imagine yourself a child lying among lupines and sweet William, picking off the petals of a daisy. If you're like me, you'll wake up only when you get to the cash register and find out how much of the store you wanted to bring home.

Stocked with seed from more than 150 varieties of wildflowers, as well as instructional DVDs, books, and gardening gifts, the shop owned by Chris and Diana Borie is a flower lover's delight. Add to that the six acres of wildflowers outside, which visitors are free to tour, and the delight borders on paradise for anyone with a passion for flowers.

No one is happier here than Diana and Chris, owners since 2005. A native Vermonter, Diana remembers coming to the farm, founded in 1981, as a young woman. Like a path through a meadow, her education and career took several twists and turns. She studied dance at the Boston Conservatory of Music, then decided she didn't want to join the starving artists club. She earned a master's degree in business in Venezuela and spent 12 years along the coast of Venezuela, working in horticulture to establish plantings that would host beneficial insects. "A lot of countries are losing beneficial insects," she says, and cites this as a reason she feels fulfilled in her work at Vermont Wildflower Farm.



Seed that's ready to go, and ready to grow! Chris Borie originally hails from Marseille, France, where he grew up surrounded by fields of sunflowers and poppies, and was inspired to start wildflower gardening at the age of 12, a passion he enjoys to this day. The seeds he and his wife Diana offer for sale are strictly non-GMO and open-pollinated, ideally suited to organic gardens.

Her husband Chris grew up in France, roaming the poppy and lavender fields of Marseille. Surrounded by a family of gardeners, Chris imbibed the background knowledge and a love of flowers that prepared him for offering outstanding service to Vermont Wildflower Farm customers. He speaks French, English, and Spanish. Diana speaks English, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese, and can read and write German and Dutch.

Between the two of them, they are well equipped to communicate with the global clientele they've cultivated through their catalog and website.

Diana returned home to Vermont from South America in 1998. The following year she got a job with a firm in Williston doing contract work for the International Monetary Fund. But the corporate world, including flying to Washington, DC, and back every week,