

# Wildflower Landscape Tutorial



Learn how to paint a pretty spring landscape with mountains in the distance and various colorful wildflowers in the foreground.

This painting was done on an 11 x 14 canvas but the design can be done on any size!

**Duration: about 2.5 hours**  
**Level: Easy/ Intermediate.**

*There may be some challenge with the mountains & pine trees. You can simplify this painting by omitting grass texture in step 6.*

## Materials

- Acrylic Paint
- 11 x 14 Canvas (this design can work on any size)
- Brushes
- T-Square Ruler or Straight Edge
- Pencil

## Colors (I used Liquitex BASICS & Artist's Loft):

- Titanium White
- Payne's Grey
- Cadmium Red Medium
- Primary Yellow
- Hooker's Green Hue Permanent
- Light Olive Green
- Light Blue Permanent
- Deep Violet

## Brushes:

- 3/4" Flat Wash Brush
- 3/8" Angle Brush
- #4 Round Brush
- #8 Round Brush
- #12 Bright Brush (or 1/4" flat brush)

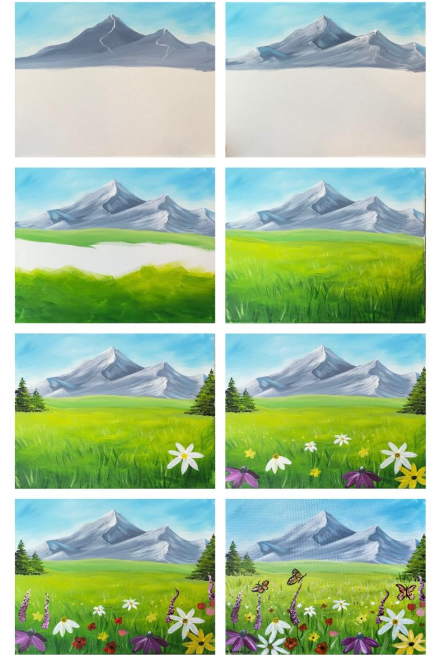
## Color Palette:



## Directions At A Glance

### How To Paint

#### Wildflower Landscape



[www.StepByStepPainting.net](http://www.StepByStepPainting.net)

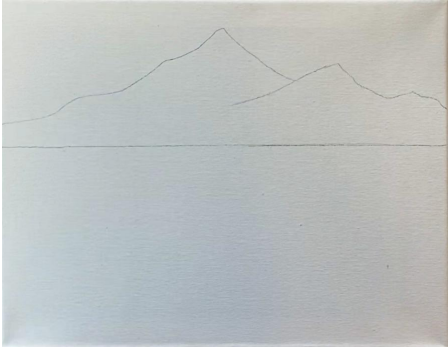
## Step By Step Directions:

### 1. Draw the horizon line & mountains

Position your canvas so that it is horizontal. Draw a horizontal line about 4.5" from the top of the canvas.



Then lightly sketch out the mountains so that you have at least 2-3 peaks of varying heights.



## 2. Paint the sky

Load your palette with light blue permanent and titanium white. Use your 3/4" flat wash brush to paint the sky.

Load the brush in about equal amounts of blue and white. Paint angular strokes filling the area of the sky above the mountain.



Try to have the lighter part of the sky be just above the mountains and the top of the sky be slightly darker (more pure blue).

You can control the lightness or darkness of the color by adding more or less white to the brush. You can also slightly paint over the mountain lines you drew.



## 3. Paint the mountains

Load Payne's grey onto your palette. Mix about 2 parts payne's grey, 1 part light blue permanent and 1 part titanium white to create a dark/medium blue grey color.



Use that dark grey blue color to paint the mountains. Use the 3/4" flat wash brush (or another brush you feel comfortable using).



Optional: Make the lower mountains slightly lighter by adding more white. We will add more detail to the mountains in the next step.



Then use your #4 round brush to paint the dividing line on the mountain. This is an uneven line that starts at the peak and kind of loosely zig-zags down to the base.



Do this for each of the mountain peaks. This division line will help define which side of the mountain has the lighter snow color and which side has the darker shadows.



Then use your 3/8" angle brush to paint the left side of the mountain. Load it into titanium white but wipe off a little off the brush so there's not much paint on the brush. Drag the brush in angular strokes to the lower left. This should not be opaque, allow some of that darker grey to still show through.



Do this to each of the left sides of the mountain peaks. Allow that white to fade away as it reaches the base.



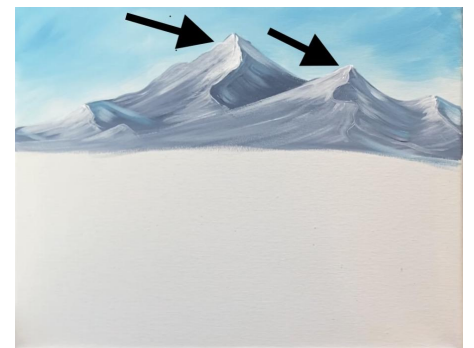
Next load your brush in a little bit of light blue permanent and white and wipe off the brush. This side has some of these light color strokes, however, it should still be darker than the left side.



Lightly paint diagonal strokes going angular to the lower right. If needed, go back with some darker grey to ensure the right sides of the mountain peaks are darker.



Then rinse and dry brush. Load it into just the white. Add bright white to the very top left of the mountain peak so this is the brightest part of the mountain.



#### 4. Paint the green landscape far in the distance

Load your palette Primary Yellow, Titanium White, Light Olive Green and Hooker's Green Hue Permanent.



Mix a very light green on your palette using about 3 parts white, 1 part light olive green and a tiny bit of hookers green hue permanent.



Use your 3/4" flat wash to paint a green land area at the base of the mountain. This is a sort of hilly/ flat line.



Then add a tiny bit of hookers green hue to your brush to make the bottom of that grassy area slightly darker (but not too dark). Go about a couple inches down with this green.



#### 5. Paint the green grassy area base color

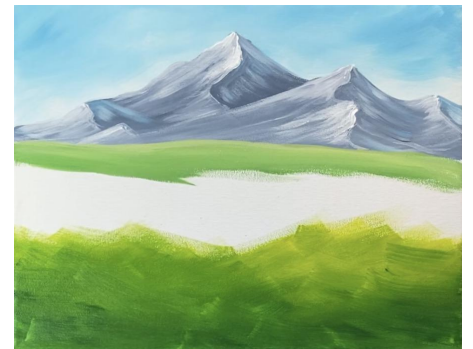
Next paint the rest of the grassy area. This should be dark at the bottom and then gradually get lighter in the distance.

Rinse and dry your 3/4" flat wash brush. Load it in hooker's green hue permanent. Start with the darker area on the bottom. Paint

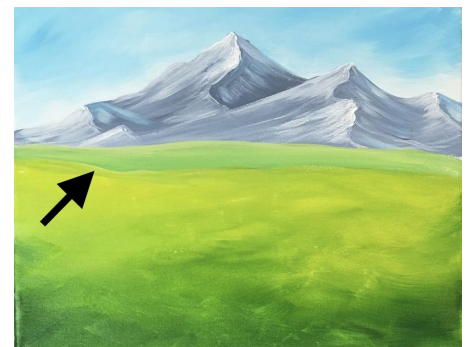
angular "x style" strokes at the bottom of the canvas. This means you are "flip flopping" your brush to make choppy strokes that blend on the canvas.



Then gradually add in some lighter green (light olive green) into that darker grass area and blend it upwards. Keep doing the same style strokes.



Your grassy area should get lighter and lighter as you work your way up the canvas. You can add a little titanium white and/or yellow to the color to lighten the area up.



Define the land line that divides that other piece of "spring green land" way in the distance. You can use the tip of your 3/4" flat wash brush with green and little titanium white to define that line.

## 6. Paint grass texture

For the grass texture, I used a #4 round brush. You can also do this with an angle brush or a smaller round brush.

Start with hooker's green hue permanent slightly watered down. Start at the bottom and paint grass blades about 1" high. These blades should go in different directions (vertical, diagonal, etc.).



Tip: if the green isn't showing up dark enough you can add a tiny bit of payne's grey into it.



Then create a second and third row of grass blades. The grass that gets further in the distance gets slightly lighter and slightly shorter. This gives the area "depth".



For the lighter grass blades, use titanium white mixed with light olive green and hooker's green permanent (and various tints of greens that you mix on your palette). The trick is to make the grass shorter and lighter further up the canvas.

You do not have to fill all of it with grass blades. Just enough to give the grassy field some texture.

## 7. Paint pine trees

For these pine trees, I used a bright brush that is about 1/4" wide. You can use any similar size flat tip brush.



Load just the tip of your brush in a little bit of hooker's green hue permanent mixed with a little bit of payne's grey (very dark green). Make a mark for the top of the tree. Then use the tip of the brush to "dab" the branches forming a conical shape for the tree working your way to the bottom base.



Dab your brush left and right going in a zig-zag formation. Paint another tree next to that one.

You can customize this and create more or less trees! Alternatively you can do this painting without any pine trees.



Add a second and third layer to your trees with lighter green (light olive green). This will give your pine tree some depth. Make the bottom base of the trees darker

by adding Paynes grey on the base of the tree.

I chose not to paint the trunks of the trees.



## 8. Paint white daisies (and the rest of the flowers)

Tip with these flowers: these are very loose "illustrative" flowers. Don't get too caught up in the details of each individual flower. They will all collectively come together as one unified wildflower field! Relax and have fun with this step!

Use a #4 round brush and titanium white to paint the petals of the flowers. Also paint a tiny circle for the center of the flower. Form the petal shapes with the tip of the round brush and paint them in solid white.



You can do as many petals as you want. I did 7 simple petals. Then paint a small circle in the center. I mixed primary yellow with a little white.

Tip: with the yellow, it is recommended you mix white into it so that it will show up opaque.

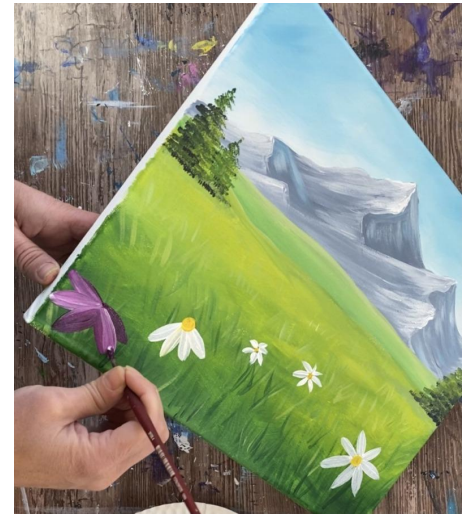


Some of the daisies are on the side. You can paint just the bottom petals and the yellow circle on the top. Paint smaller white daisies in the distance. When you paint large flowers on the bottom and smaller ones in the distance, this creates depth in your wildflower field.



## 9. Paint purple flowers

The purple flowers were also done with a #4 round brush. I loaded my palette with deep violet. Mix a little white into the deep violet to lighten the color up a bit. Then paint the petals. I did petals on the side for this flower.



To create variations of that purple color, mix a little bit of white into the purple at different amounts. Have each petal overlap one another to create different tints of that purple.



Then paint the centerpiece on top of the purple flowers. I mixed white with a little bit of payne's grey to create this color.



Add a little bit of white highlight to the top of the center pieces of the purple flowers.

### 10. Paint yellow flowers

Use your #4 round brush and yellow mixed with a little white to paint small yellow flowers. Then paint tiny little dots way in the distance to create the illusion that smaller flowers are further down the field.



### 11. Paint red poppies

For the red poppies, I used cadmium red medium hue and a #4 round brush. Paint small but wide 4-5 petal flowers. Simply load the red on the tip of your round brush and gently press to create the petal mark.



Make smaller ones in the distance and large ones on the bottom. You can also mix a little white into the red and paint some different flowers. I made a different shaped flower on the right. Use the red to paint small little dots in the distance as well.



### 12. Paint purple flowers/ lupine/ lilac

For this type of flower, I used deep violet and my #4 round brush. Load the paint just on the tip of the bristles and "stipple" or "dot" the paint. Form a conical shape for this type of flower. Then go back over with white and paint white dots.

The white will blend with the purple dots to create depth in the lupines.



I did several of these types of flowers. You can have them overlap other flowers or have other flowers overlap them.



### 13. Paint stems & more details on each flower and small marks way in the distance for further away flowers

For the stems, I mixed a little Payne's grey into hooker's green hue permanent. Use the tip of your round brush to make very thin lines for the stems on all the large flowers. You can also paint some leaf shapes.



These stems and leaves are very subtle. You also do not have to

make a stem for the tiny flowers way in the distance.

Some more details: I did another large lupine flower towards the center as well as some more dots in the distance. I also added some lighter red (red mixed with white) to some of the poppy petals. And I did a payne's grey dot in the centers of the poppies and yellow flowers.

#### 14. Draw butterflies

Tip with the butterflies: observe some reference photos of monarch butterflies. Take a look at the shape and different positions the wings may be in. Practice drawing in a sketchbook before drawing on the canvas.

Use a pencil to draw the butterflies. Lightly sketch the wings and the positions of the butterflies. I did one butterfly perched on a lupine in the center. The other two on the left and right are flying and we see their full wing span.



#### 15. Paint the butterflies in

Tip: Just like the wildflowers, don't get caught up in the details of these butterflies. They are small and not realistic. They are loose and illustrative.

I recommend you paint a layer of titanium white onto the wings first. This will allow your orange to show up nice and bright.



Mix orange on your palette by mixing cadmium red medium with yellow (2 parts yellow 1 part red). Paint a layer of orange on those wings.



Wait for that orange layer to dry and then use Payne's grey to paint the outer edges of the wings. Paint a thick line on the edges. Then paint loose diagonal and curved lines on the inside of the wings.



Paint the thorax and abdomen as well as the antennae.



When that black dries, use titanium white to paint small dots on the black edging of the wings.



Do a few touch ups if needed! I did some more light colored grass way in the distance that slightly overlapped the trees.

You are finished!