

Wildflowers, Herbs & Specialist **MEADOW MIXES**

Wildflower Mixes for a Range of Soil Types and Situations

Our broad range of mixes can be used in many different settings and for different uses:

- Farmland landscapes
- Parks and gardens
- Golf courses
- Roadsides
- To compliment Countryside Stewardship Mixes

Enriching the countryside

An Introduction to Wildflowers and Herbs

There is not a season of the year when our countryside is not decorated by one or another of the many attractive native wildflower species which flourish in the woods, hedgerows, meadows and marshlands of the U.K.

Thankfully more and more people are recognising the importance of preserving and enhancing our country's wild flora. This has seen a big increase of agri-environmental agreements in recent years encouraging the sowing and re-establishment of many wildflower species.

As a result of this very encouraging agenda, plus a significant rise in general public interest we have designed a number of options for those planning to establish eco-friendly areas on farmland **and** other specialist locations.

We can provide mixes for any manner of options, please just ask.

We offer the facility to design your own tailor-made wildflower, herb and indigenous grass mixtures.

Key Factors to Consider:

- Soil type, fertility and location
- Colour, species diversity, suitability and compatibility in relation to the site in question
- Practicality in terms of overall cost and ease of permanent establishment
- The importance of getting a good balance over time between the different species of wildflowers and grasses
- Creating an environment for all sown flora to be in total harmony with insects, birds and mammals.



GROWING GUIDE

Establishment of wildflower mixes are not always immediate. Full establishment can sometimes take up to two or three years depending on the competition of the mixture, site conditions, soil type, and husbandry input. Maintenance and management also has a major impact on good establishment.

Key Factors to Consider:

- **Soil Suitability:**

For all mixtures the soil suitability should be taken into account. It is helpful if the pH (acidity/alkalinity) of the soil is known, plus knowledge of the soil's nutrient content (e.g. P & K).

Wildflower mixtures generally persist well in areas of low fertility. If the soil is highly fertile it may be necessary to remove or strip existing topsoil and sow on to sub-soil.

- **Seed bed preparation:**

This is the most important aspect of wildflower establishment. Whilst annual flowers and grasses will germinate readily, some of the biennial and perennials take longer.

- **Sowing rates:**

Sowing rates vary from 2 to 5 grams per square metre for most grass/wildflower mixtures. For mixture specific sowing rate details please get in touch. Beware of sowing at a lower rate than is necessary as this can allow weeds ingress.

- **When to sow:**

A good time for sowing mixtures is generally considered to be late summer or early autumn when seeds are shed naturally, the soil is warmer and moisture is usually present in sufficient quantity to aid good germination. Annual flower mixtures sown in early autumn should flower from May/June the following year.

Double sowings, one in autumn and one in spring on the same site produce prolonged colour throughout

the summer and autumn. It may be necessary to re-seed areas of annual wildflowers at a reduced seeding rate in the autumn of the year of flowering in order to maintain the diversity of species and colour over a longer period of time.

The window in spring or early summer is also a viable period to sow wildflower/grass mixtures. Consideration must be made at this time for potentially greater weed competition in the seed-bed and possibly experiencing sustained dry periods. Both factors can at times be detrimental to strong and full establishment.

- **Management and Maintenance:**

As a meadow develops, the annual flowers can disappear or reduce in number whilst the perennials become more prominent. It is possible to overseed with annuals. Areas must be cleared of cover prior to seeding.

It is not recommended to fertilise as this will reduce the vitality of the herb and flower content of the meadow. (Light stock grazing will fertilize naturally although it may be necessary to lightly harrow after spring graze to drag and spread manure evenly over the field.)

Germination of wildflower seeds can be erratic and some species require vernalisation before germination in spring of the following year, (i.e. a period of prolonged cold temperatures).

Maintenance in the first year after sowing should be restricted to a high cut in late summer. This can then be followed by an early spring cut in the second year to remove any debris.

If the intention is to take a hay crop in the second year, a light graze or topping in the spring should be followed by shutting off to allow full development of the crop, and maximise seed shedding of all species.

If hay is taken, it is not usual to graze the aftermath. A topping in late autumn should tidy the area. The aftermath can be lightly grazed to tidy only after full re-growth has taken place. (Meadow mixtures that are heavily grazed tend to revert to a pure grass sward after a period of time – so avoid aftermath grazing by livestock to preserve the wildflower/herb content).



CLASSIC WILDFLOWER MEADOW MIXTURE OPTIONS

Fine Flowers Meadow Mixture **80% Grasses + 20% Wildflowers**

An outstanding mixture designed for amenity areas and containing a wide range of reliable perennial species together with fine-leaved grasses. This mix will produce a vibrant and colourful canopy.

Consider the option of adding the Herbal or Cornfield Annuals Mix to further enhance diversity and colour.

Mixture Contains:

80% Grasses: 20% Sheep's Fescue, 35% Chewings Fescue, 10% Crested Dogstail, 5% Common Bent, 10% Slender Red Fescue.

20% Wildflowers: comprising of Oxeye Daisy, Lady's Bedstraw, Yarrow, Self Heal, Red Campion, Vipers Buglos, St John's Wort, Musk Mallow, Meadow Buttercup, Common Sorrel, Black Knapweed, Yellow Rattle, Wild Carrot, Agrimony, Cowslip, Ribwort Plantain, Meadow Sweet, Common Birdsfoot Trefoil, Meadow Clary and Salad Burnet.

Suggested Sowing Rate: 3 to 4 grams per square metre

Special Herbal Mixture **100% Herbs**

Herbs contain high levels of minerals, such as Calcium, Magnesium, Phosphorous and Potassium which improve bone structure, especially in growing animals. Herbs are also very palatable to horses and can improve grazing habits and take away the need to buy in mineral supplements (and benefit non-users of minerals).

This mixture is deep-rooting and can therefore improve soil structure, drainage, friability and the natural porosity of soils.

Mixture Contains:

30% Perennial Chicory, 30% Burnet, 10% Sheep's Parsley, 25% Ribwort Plantain, 5% Yarrow.

Suggested Sowing Rate: 0.5 grams per square metre

Minimum 2.5 kgs/acre (if for a designated herbal strip or at 0.5 to 1kgs/acre with a grass mixture).

Cornfield/Meadow Annuals Mixture **100% Wildflowers**

A superb annual mix providing a vivid colourful display from late May until early September. Meadow annuals can be sown as a single element or added to existing established meadows. It can be used as an excellent supplement to mixes with biennial and perennial species or just re-planted regularly in one area. (We advise taking our corn cackle if the area is to be used for grazing or hay).

Mixture Contains:

40% Cornflower, 5% Corn Chamomile, 10% Black Medick, 25% Field Poppy, 20% Corn Cockle

Suggested Sowing Rate: 1 to 2 grams per square metre

CLASSIC WILDFLOWER MEADOW MIXTURE OPTIONS

Lighter and Loamy Soils Meadow Mixture

85% Grasses + 15% Wildflowers

A specialist mixture for loams, calcareous and lighter soils which provides a lengthy flowering period with a range of colour and a wide variety of species.

The species in this mix are non-injurious to livestock and palatable if very lightly grazed.

Mixture Contains:

85% Grasses: 3% Sainfoin, 15% Meadow Fescue, 28% Creeping Red Fescue, 8% Crested Dogtail, 20% Sheep's Fescue, 9% Timothy, 2% Meadow Foxtail

15% Wildflowers: Oxeye Daisy, Common Sage, Birdsfoot Trefoil, Wild Carrot, Red Clover, Common Sorrel, Meadow Buttercup, Red Campion, Ladies Bedstraw, Self Heal, Ribwort Plantain, Cornflower, Poppy, Black Medick, Corn Cockle and Wild Marjoram.

Suggested Sowing Rate: 2 to 3 grams per square metre

Meadow Mix for Heavier Soils/Wetter Locations

85% Grasses + 15% Wildflowers

Specifically designed for heavier, wetter locations where poor drainage is prevalent. This mix provides an abundance of colour and persistence in poorer fertility situations.

Utilisable by livestock or, alternatively, can be left to evolve as a cutting meadow with all its floral attributes.

Mixture Contains:

85% Grasses: 20% Meadow Fescue, 8% Late Diploid Pasture Perennial, 25% Strong Creeping Red Fescue, 15% Smooth Stalked Meadow Grass, 10% Timothy, 2% Yorkshire Fog, 5% Meadow Foxtail

15% Wildflowers: St Johns Wort, Betony, Meadow Sweet, Common Pire, Agrimony, Wild Carrot, Ribwort Plantain, Common Sorrel, Dropwort, Vipers Buglos, Oxeye Daisy, Black Knapweed, Birdsfoot Trefoil, Foxglove, Cornflower, Black Medick, Poppy and Self Heal.

Suggested Sowing Rate: 2 to 3 grams per square metre

Pond Edge + Water Margins Mixture

80% Grasses + 20% Wildflowers

A mixture containing 20 plus specially selected species suitable for sowing at the margins of ponds, streams, ditches, watercourses and wetter, damper soils.

Mixture Contains:

80% Grasses: 3% Meadow Foxtail, 4% Small Leaved Timothy, 8% Crested Dogtail, 5% Yorkshire Fog, 7% Creeping Bent, 12% Smooth Stalked Meadow Grass, 1% Sweet Vernal Grass, 20% Chewings Fescue, 20% Slender Red Fescue

20% Wildflowers: comprising of Pendulous Sedge, Water Avens, Common Rue, Bluebell, Yellow Flag Iris, Meadow Sweet, Meadow Buttercup, Dropwort, Purple Loosestrife, Pepperwort, Black Knapweed, Yellow Rattle, Oxeye Daisy, White Campion, Self Heal, Ribwort Plantain, Lady's Bedstraw, Kidney Vetch and Salad Burnet.

Suggested Sowing Rate: 3 to 4 grams per square metre

We can of course process specialist bespoke mixtures drawing on a stock of over 80 species of wildflower and herbs.

CLASSIC WILDFLOWER MEADOW MIXTURE OPTIONS

Woodland, Hedgerow + Shady Area Mixture

80% Grasses + 20% Wildflowers

Containing 18 different species of wildflower this mix is a unique mix designed specifically for shady and partially shaded areas. It can be sown alongside hedgerows, under trees or within established woodland areas.

Mixture Contains:

80% Grasses: 20% Crested Dogtail, 14% Wood Meadow Grass, 1% Sweet Vernal Grass, 22% Chewings Fescue, 8% Common Bent Grass, 15% Slender Red Fescue

20% Wildflowers: Bluebell, Hedge Bedstraw, Teasel, Wood Aven, Wild Carrot, Yarrow, Self Heal, Black Knapweed, Cowslip, Foxglove, Kidney Vetch, St Johns Wort, Red Campion, White Campion, Burreed Saxifrage, Meadow Buttercup, Common Sorrel, Agrimony.

Suggested Sowing Rate: 3 to 4 grams per square metre

SPRING SOWING:

Year 1: Cut in August/September to tidy

Year 2: Mow or a very light graze in early March then shut off to develop.

Cut after annuals have flowered and shed seed. A very light aftermath graze in the autumn may help.

AUTUMN SOWING:

YEAR 1: Leave to fully establish.

YEAR 2: Either mow or very lightly graze with livestock.

Gently graze at low stocking rate or top in August/September once flowering/seed shedding has occurred.

From autumn sowing, a mixture should be allowed to develop until the grasses have seeded and any annual flowers have flowered and seeded in the following year.

YEAR 3: Graze very lightly in early spring and then shut off to allow flowering of perennials.

Hay cut can be taken from mid-July onwards and possibly aftermath grazed in later autumn.

After sowing it is advised to rake or lightly harrow the area then consolidate/compact gently. Don't sow too deeply as most wildflower seeds germinate on or near the surface of the soil.

Annuals:

Germinate, flower and die within one year, therefore colour is achieved within its first season of planting, and seed is shed. *Examples include Cornflower, Corn Marigold, and Field Poppy.*

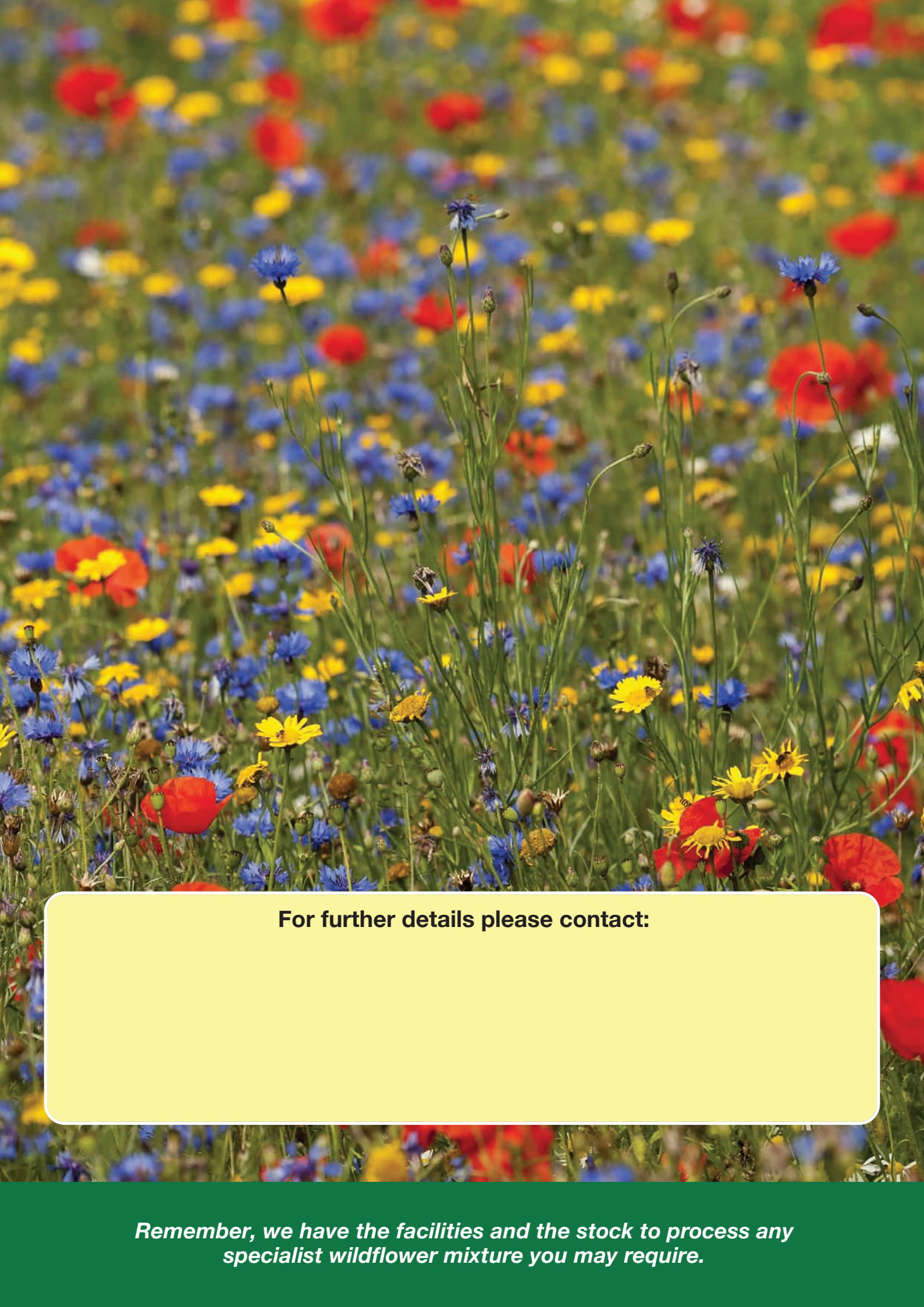
Perennials:

They can take *up to* two or three years to flower, and then continue for many years thereafter. (If you are expecting first year colour then inclusion of an annual element in a mixture is advisable). *Examples include Knapweed, Lady's Bedstraw, Oxeye Daisy.*

Biennials:

Biennial plants grow only foliage the first year, go in to dormancy overwinter, and flower the second season to complete their lifecycle. *Examples include White Campion, Foxglove, Dark Mullein.*



A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a dense field of wildflowers. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with colors ranging from bright red to deep blue and sunny yellow. The green stems and leaves are visible, creating a textured background. The overall scene is bright and colorful, suggesting a healthy, thriving meadow.

For further details please contact:

Remember, we have the facilities and the stock to process any specialist wildflower mixture you may require.