

Wildflower Meadow

“Creation and Management using Local Provenance Seed”



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Creation and Management

WHERE - you should choose an area that does not have high fertility otherwise coarse grasses may well swamp out the slower growing wildflowers.

GROUND PREPARATION - all existing vegetation on the site should be removed either by removing the turf or by applications of a suitable herbicide such as glyphosate. If you need to reduce fertility this should be done by removing the turf and also a layer of topsoil from the site. This will also help to remove weed seeds. Perennial weeds should also be removed by removing their roots. The soil should then be dug or rotovated, followed by raking to remove large stones, to produce a fine tilth.

CHOICE OF SEED MIXTURE - you should never choose imported seed as this is generally different genetically from native local provenance seed and is unlikely to thrive under our conditions. Local provenance seed mixtures will have a carefully designed and selected mixture of low growing grasses and selected wildflowers which are native to N Ireland and have been grown from seed collected from the wild in Northern Ireland. Your supplier should also have mixtures to suit different habitat types e.g. meadow mixture, damp/wetland mixture, woodland edge (semi-shade) mixture, coastal mixture etc and should be able to advise you on which mixture to choose.

SOWING - this is best done in late spring or early autumn when the soil is moist and warm. You should sow at the rate recommended by your local provenance wildflower seed supplier and follow the instructions carefully.

CUTTING - your supplier should provide you with a cutting regime which will mimic the original use of meadows for grazing or hay production. For you, this will involve two cuts (late spring and early autumn) each year, (three in the first year), to ensure that the grasses and wildflowers can grow in harmony.

ENQUIRIES - if you require any further advice or information, please contact Ecoseeds on the contact details below.

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