



Seed Harvesting

Collecting native wildflower seed from approved local sources is an important part of our activities. As well as harvesting for individual species we collect unique seed mixes from existing natural habitats for use in habitat restoration and enhancement projects.

Brush harvesting

This unique machine operates - not by cutting - but by gently removing seed using specially designed rotating brushes. As a result donor species and invertebrates experience negligible impact. The machine is also typically pulled by a small, low-impact vehicle such as a quad or mini-tractor causing minimum interference on the site. A brush harvester:

- Collects from a range of habitats (e.g. meadows, heathlands, wetlands)
- Can be adjusted to collect from 10cm up to 2m in height enabling individual species to be targeted more specifically
- Can cover up to 3 Ha per day.



The Brush Harvester can be used to collect seed from existing areas such as wildflower meadows and nature reserves – thereby providing a unique mix containing many species of local flora that are not available commercially. The machine has also recently been used to collect heather seed for regeneration projects.



Plot combine



Where greater volumes of seed are required or for larger areas (i.e. greater than 1 Hectare) a plot combine is used. The plot combine is specifically designed to collect seed for use in large scale habitat restoration projects. This machine was part funded by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency to assist in meeting targets within the NI Biodiversity Action Plan.

Our operational policy ensures minimum disturbance to wildlife. Harvesting is conducted using sustainable methodologies that seek to maintain the integrity of the donor site or species.