



Wildwork

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How to sow and manage wildflowers

Wild Work's general guidance for most native wildflower seed mixes...

How to sow

- ▶ Source seed of native provenance if possible
- ▶ Prepare a seed bed of soil to a fine tilth (less stones the better)
- ▶ Broadcast the seed evenly over the entire area (taking care not to spread too much at once).
Wildflower seeds tend to be quite small, so you need very little to cover a large area
- ▶ No need to rake
- ▶ Seed should be sown in weather conditions that are not too wet or windy
- ▶ Water only if you do not expect it to rain for some time
- ▶ Seed can be sown in Ireland at all times of year, other than the months of June and July
- ▶ It may take up to two months for seeds to germinate, or longer if sown in autumn/winter (though it is an ideal time to sow wildflower seed, flowers will not begin to appear until the following Spring/Summer)

Management

- After wildflowers have finished blooming, a single cut will be required. This is best if done in mid-late autumn
- Cut to 10cm or less
- Alternatively, two or three cuts during the growing season will make it more tidy and help it to flower more
- Clippings should be removed
- Quite a number of species should flower in the first year. However, the species diversity will reduce in subsequent years as a more natural grassland wildflower meadow is formed
- All naturally occurring wildflower meadows contain grasses. There is no need to counter sow with grass seed as grasses will naturally colonise the meadow over time
- Continue to manage the meadow as above, or re-sow each year if looking to for a greater diversity of flowers

Where to sow

- Suitable areas for seed sowing include flower pots, flower beds, or ornamental gravel beds in amenity settings as these tend to be areas of little biodiversity value.
- Existing grassland or lawns can be dug up and replaced with a freshly sown wildflower meadow, though it is often better to change the management practice to encourage flowers already existing within the habitat (guidance available from Wild Work). Some existing grassland may already be an important habitat from a biodiversity perspective.