



Wildwork

HELPING PEOPLE HELP NATURE HELP PEOPLE

Wildflowers of Ireland

Found in Design by Nature's Wildflower Mix GF01

How to sow and manage wildflowers

Wild Work's general guidance for GF01 and most other seed mixes...

- Suitable areas for seed sowing include flowerpots, 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.**



How to sow and manage wildflowers

Sowing

- 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).



How to sow and manage wildflowers

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



Thank you for
helping nature
by planting Irish
wildflowers!

The wildflowers
in your seed pack
are native to
Ireland or
Archaeophytes -
introduced by
humans to
Ireland before
1500.



Please plant these seeds in your garden or other urban site. These are not to be planted in wild areas.

The following slides showcase some of the wildflowers in your seed pack.





Black Medick

Medicago lupulina

Dúmheidic

Perennial

Flowers April - October

Black medick, also known as hop clover, is a plant of dry grassland belonging to the legume or clover family.

The yellow flowers are followed by coiled black, kidney-shaped seedpods.



By Krzysztof Ziarnek, Kenraiz - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=111381985>



Common Centaury

Centaurium erythraea

Dréimire Mhuire



Annual

Flowers June - October

A pretty little flower that prefers damp woodland paths, scrub, dunes and short turf beside the sea.

Used as a medical herb in many parts of Europe but has bitter taste!



Corn Marigold

Glebionis segetum

Buíán

Annual

Flowers June - October



Likely introduced into Ireland in the Iron Age. It was a tenacious weed of cereal crops until effective herbicides were developed against it.

Now Corn Marigold is classed as “near threatened”.



Common Poppy

Papaver rhoeas

Cailleach dhearg

Annual

Flowers June-September

Can be found along roadsides,
arable fields and waste
ground.

The flowers only last a day,
but the plant can produce
over 400 flowers per season
and make about 50,000
seeds!





Cornflower

Centaurea cyanus

Gormán

Annual

Flowers May - October



Once a weed of arable land.

The dried flowers are used to make a herbal tea to treat several ailments including constipation, water retention, and chest congestion.



Corncockle

Agrostemma githago

Cogal

Annual

Flowers June-August



During the medieval period it was a troublesome arable weed.

Its seeds are similar to cereal grains, but can be poisonous if eaten in large amounts.



Cowslip

Primula veris

Bainne bó bleachtáin

Perennial

Flowers April - May

Cowslips have declined in Ireland because of intensive farming and over-picking, though they are making a comeback.

It was harvested to make a popular, an intoxicating, wine!





Devil's-Bit Scabious

Succisa pratensis

Odhrach bhallach

Perennial

Flowers July - October

Used as a medicine for several ailments including leprosy, fevers, coughs and worms.

Devil's-Bit Scabious is the larval food of the rare Marsh Fritillary butterfly.





Eyebright

Euphrasia officinalis

Glanrosc

Annual

Flowers June - September



This is a semi-parasitic plant – it gets some of its nutrients from the roots of clovers, plantains and grasses.

The common name of eyebright refers to its traditional use for treating eye problems.



Lady's Bedstraw

Galium verum

Bolach cnis

Perennial

Flowers July - August



Lady's Bedstraw was used to curdle milk for cheese, as a vegetarian alternative to rennet.

The flowers fill the air with a wonderful honey-like smell in the summer. Dried, the flowers smell of new-mown hay.



Wild Marjoram

Origanum vulgare

Máirtin fiáin

Perennial

Flowers June - September

Also known as Oregano
Considered a native in the
south of Ireland and probably
introduced in the north.

A staple herb of Italian-
American cuisine.

It is thought that American
soldiers brought it back from
Europe after World War II.





Scented Mayweed

Matricaria chamomilla

Fíogadán cumhra

Annual

Flowers June - August

Also known as German Chamomile.

In traditional medicine it has been used to treat multiple diseases and ailments, including digestive disorders, conjunctivitis cough, kidney stones, eye infection, headaches, and insomnia.





Ox-eye Daisy

Leucanthemum vulgare

Nóinín mór

Perennial

Flowers June - September

Abundant throughout Ireland on roadsides, dry grassland and waste ground.

The name Daisy comes from the Old English 'dæges ēage' or day's eye, because the flower opened in sunny weather.





Red Bartsia

Odontites vernus

Hocas tae

Annual

Flowers June - August

Semi-parasitic, getting nutrients from grasses, clovers and other legumes.

Relatively common and widespread in Ireland and found mainly on waste ground, roadsides and on stony arable land.





Red Campion

Silene dioica

Coirean coilleach

**Perennial sometimes Annual
Flowers April - September**

Silene, refers to Silenus, the drunken, merry god of the woodlands in Greek mythology.

This plant is dioecious - male and female flowers are on separate plants. The male flowers are smaller than the female flowers.





Red Clover

Trifolium pratense

Seamair dhearg

Perennial

Flowers June - October



Has the ability to capture or 'fix' nitrogen from the air and feed it into the soil and surrounding plants.

A favourite childhood pastime was to suck a drop of sweet nectar from the bases of the flowers.



Self-heal

Prunella vulgaris

Duán ceannchosach

Perennial

Flowers June - August

A member of the mint family
– look out for its a square
stem.

Was used in the treatment of
halitosis (bad breath) and
sore throats. Traditionally in
Ireland it was also used as
heart remedy.





Sorrel

Rumex acetosa

Samhadh bó

Perennial

Flowers May - June



This wildflower is common throughout Ireland and is a member of the dock family.

Leaves have a tangy, acidic, sour-lemony flavour and are commonly used in salads, soups, omelettes and sauces.



St. John's-wort

Hypericum pulchrum

Beathnua bainean

Perennial

Flowers June - August



When the glands on the plant are crushed, a compound within creates red stains.

The name St. John's wort refers to John the Baptist, as the plant blooms around the time of the feast of St. John the Baptist in late June.



Yarrow

Achillea millefolium

Athair thalún

Perennial

Flowers June - November

Was said to have magical properties to protect travellers on long journeys.

In Greek myth, the hero Achilles was said to have used Yarrow to treat the wounds of his men.



Yellow-rattle

Rhinanthus minor

Gliográn

Annual

Flowers May - August

Semi-parasitic, particularly on grasses.

Often referred to as meadow-makers helper, Yellow Rattle reduces the vigour of surrounding grasses allowing other wildflowers to compete.



Sandro's Irish Wildflower Conservation Grade Seed Mixture: Range: Wildflower Mixtures (Code GF)

Product Name: Small Garden Lawn Mix

Product Code: GF01

- If purchasing this seed mix, print or save this page and keep it as your reference as the species and advice change occasionally
- Description: **GF01** contains well behaved species ideal for smaller gardens and formal wildflower lawns.
- This mixture contains the most colourful of all the tidy species in our entire range and suits nearly every situation.
- This mixture is not intended for fertile soils as the resulting weeds or grass will smother it.
- Plant in full sun, where it will flower in the first year.
- Dislikes very wet or very dry soil.
- Requires only one cut per year, but two or three will make it more tidy for your garden and help it to flower more, cut to 4 inches.



- **Mixture Specifications:** Origin: 100% Native Irish Origin, Wildflower Seed Mixture. pH range: Suits most garden soils. Aspect: Sunny Life Cycle: Contains Annuals, Biennials & Perennials. Height Range: 30cm - 80cm Flowering Period: May to August. Fertility Range: Will grow on any soil, the less fertile the soil, the smaller the growth, and less cutting will be required. Wintergreen: Moderate Total number of seeds per gram: 1600
- **Species List:** Black Meddick, Centaury, Corn Marigold, Corn Poppy, Cornflower, Corncockle, Cowslip, Devil's Bit Scabious, Eyebright, Kidney Vetch, Lady's Bedstraw, Marjoram, Scented Mayweed, Ox-eye Daisy, Red Bartsia, Red Champion, Red Clover, Selfheal, Sorrel, St Johnswort, Yarrow, Yellow Rattle.
- **Seed Sowing Rates:** Sowing rate: 1.5 grams per metre.
- **Nurse Crop:** A nurse crop is not required

