

Wild Flower Management Guide

It is important that the correct mixture is selected to coincide with the soil type and drainage characteristics, sub soils often provide a weed-free, low nutrient status seed bed, ideal for wild flora.

In high fertility areas, it may be necessary to remove topsoil to prevent the growth of more vigorous grasses and pernicious weeds.

Preparation

- Remove topsoil if applicable
- Treat existing vegetation with a systemic herbicide, cultivate to 10cm and allow to fallow if practical, a repeat herbicide application may be necessary.

Sowing

Sowing can take place throughout the year providing a good tilth can be prepared, however March/April and August/September are generally the most suitable.

- Mix seed to ensure even species distribution
- Sow at 5g/m² for mixtures with grass, or 0.5- 1.0g/m² for pure wild flower mixtures
- Bulk up small seeding rates with Rehofix MK1500 (1 part seed : 5 part bulking granules) or something similar.
- Rake or harrow at approx. 0.5cm depth and Cambridge roll to firm seed bed

First Year Maintenance

Control the weeds and reduce competition from grasses.

If sown in March/April, make the first cut in May to a height of 5-7cm. Subsequently cut every 2 months, or when the sward reaches 15cm. Make a final cut in September/October, remove all cuttings and dig out/spot treat any perennial weeds.

Future Maintenance

Cut to 5-7cm during March/April and remove cuttings.

A second cut at the same height then take place at the end of the flowering season (August-October), remove all cuttings and conduct additional cuts in the autumn to remove untidy growth if required.

Cornfield / COLOUR BOOST Annuals

Weed treat the ground if necessary, cultivate and re-seed in spring (or autumn for Cornfield Annuals). Cut once the flowering period is over.