A Step by Step Guide to Creating & Caring for your Wildflowers

STEP 1: Select a weed-free site of low fertility.

Step 2: Fertiliser should not be used, since broad-leaved and grass weeds, together with cultivated grasses contained in standard mixtures, can be highly competitive on fertile soils. This can adversely affect seed germination, establishment and subsequent growth. However, increased grass cutting can help to counteract over-competitive growth.

Step 3: Control weeds before sowing. Annual weeds may be hoed, buried or killed with a contact herbicide. Perennial weeds should be eradicated by a translocated glyphosate-based herbicide.

Step 4: Sow mixtures either from early March to early May, or from early August to mid-September. This will ensure optimum establishment of most species.

Step 5: Cultivate the ground to provide a fine, weed-free seed bed. Firm if necessary.

Step 6: Take care to sow evenly, at the recommended rate. Thoroughly mixing one part seed with four parts dry sand makes it more easily distributed.

Step 7: Rake the seed in lightly with a spring-tined rake and firm the soil by treading or, preferably, rolling. This ensures that the seed comes into contact with moisture in the soil.

Step 8: Water with a fine spray. This will avoid disturbing the surface of the soil. Keep the area well-watered and free from any unwanted plants.

Step 9: Cut the sward every six to eight weeks during the first year after sowing and remove the cuttings. This will prevent the grass from over growing the slower growing wild flowers.

Step 10: In the following years, cut in early spring, before growth starts, and in October, after all wild flower seeds have been shed.

Step 11: Remove the cuttings.

Optimum and possible sowing times

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
		✔	✔	✔	P	P	✔	✔			

✔ = Ideal P = Possible

RHS Perfect For Pollinators

Over the past 50 years, the number of traditional wild flower meadows has sadly declined which has resulted in a noted decrease of British Insects. In order for pollination to take place, we need the perfect flowers to attract those all-important bees so they can ensure the plants become fertilised and produce seeds and fruit. Limagrain's eight different AWF mixtures and the Cornfield Annual Mixture which are listed in this booklet all contain some of the recommended plants on the Royal Horticultural Society's list of plants which are **'Perfect for Pollinators'**. You can read more about the need for bees on the RHS website **www.rhs.org.uk**

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