

Wildflower Meadows - Getting Started: Choosing Seed & Sowing Rates

Choosing Seed

A wide range of mixtures exists for dry or wet soils, acid or calcareous conditions and for different parts of the country. In most cases, a standard mixture will be suitable but these mixes can be adapted for particular sites or mixtures can be made up to suit site conditions, semi-natural vegetation communities, and management or personal preferences in choice of species.

Most mixtures are made up of 80% grasses and 20% wildflower seeds by weight, as experience shows that these proportions work well. Cultivated seed stocks of grasses are often used as they are available for 'amenity' sowing and there is generally a shortage of wild material. Wild-flower only mixes are used for specific sites or for introducing colour and density, often in a decorative setting. As well as the range of mixtures as listed below but also make up mixtures for specific sites.

Meadow Mixtures

Meadow mixes including native grass species:

MAVISBANK MIX

For well drained, loamy soils, this provides a range of species for a species-rich grassland of a type widespread in Scotland.

(£8 per 100g, £57 per kg)

DRY MEADOW MIX

For free draining dry or sandy sites

(£9 per 100g, £60 per kg)

WOODLAND MEADOW MIX*

These species are reasonable shade tolerant and this mix can be used in areas amongst established trees.

(£9 per 100g, £60 per kg)

SHORT MEADOW MIX

This can be kept cut quite short - like a flowering lawn of about 10 cm

(£8 per 100g, £55 per kg)

COASTAL MEADOW MIX

For areas close to the sea, this wildflower only mix provides a range of salt and wind tolerant species.

(£10 per 100g, £65 per kg)

WET MEADOW MIX

For marshy or damp areas.

(£9 per 100g, £60 per kg)

HEDGEROW MEADOW MIX*

This can be used in areas of light to moderate shade such as the lee of a hedge or woodland edges.

(£9 per 100g, £60 per kg)

Wildflower-only mixes

ANNUAL AND BIENNIAL MIX

This wildflower only mix is designed to last for 2 years, giving maximum colour and benefit to wildlife.

(£6.50 per 50g, £10 per 100g, £65 per kg)

CORNFIELD ANNUAL MIX

A spectacular 1 year mix that provides a riot of colour in the year in which it is planted but which will not persist

(£6 per 50g, £9 per 100g, £60 per kg)

BEE, BIRD AND BUTTERFLY MIX

A wildflower-only mix that provides a range of plants for species from moths to Goldfinches.

(£12 per 50g, £21 per 100g, £145 per kg)

POND EDGE MIX

For the margins of ponds, ditches or burns.

(£16 per 50g, £38 per 100g, £190 per kg)

Please ask us about mixtures are especially designed for use in the Rural Stewardship Scheme:

All prices include VAT @ 17.5%

SCOTIA SEEDS
Wildflowers of Scotland

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How Much Seed will I need?

The Sowing Rate for all mixes above is:

2-3 g/m² (2-3 g per square yard) so (100 g will cover 30-50 m²)
20-30 kg/hectare (8-12 kg/acre) so (1 kg will cover 300-500 m²)

Except for:

Species Rich Grassland Mix which is: **15-30kg/hectare**

Wild Bird Mix which is: **50kg/hectare**

Pond Edge which is: **1g/m²**

Use the higher rate (3g/m²) if you cannot prepare a very good seed bed, if you expect a lot of weeds or if you are not sowing at the optimal times.

For small areas where the amount comes to less than 1 kg, use the higher sowing rate of 3 g/m² and round up to at least the nearest 100g. This is because small volumes of seed can be difficult to handle and it can be frustrating to have to order more seed if you run out and small areas are also more likely to be invaded by weeds.

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