

Wildflower only mixes - Management

Management after establishment

Cornfield Annual mix – this mix will provide a vivid show of colour in the early summer through to late summer in the year after planting if sown in autumn or in the same year of a spring sowing.

Little management is needed, but as you will not be able to cut the area whilst the plants are growing it is advised to prepare a good clean seed bed before sowing to prevent unwanted annuals and other weeds from appearing!

This mix is a one year mix and will not keep flowering year after year. The species are typical of arable weeds that you would once find appearing in agricultural crops throughout Scotland – they appeared year after year because the ground was ploughed up every year and once the plants had established a good bank of seeds in the ground this provided ideal conditions to grow. If you would like repeat flowering the surest way is to plant more seed although it may be worth allowing your existing flowers to set and drop their seed and then in winter or early spring digging or rotovating the plants, including the seed heads back into the soil, and adding extra seed. Alternatively cut back and remove the plants once the seed has set and dropped and then rotovate and re-sow seed. This should allow a seed bank to build up and will disturb the ground, encouraging any seed present. You may eventually be able to rotovate the soil without adding seed.

Annual and Biennial mix - This mix should be treated as the Cornfield Annual mix but it will survive for 2 to 3 years. If you wish, after the first season you can cut down the plants once seed has set and they will re-grow in the following year but as several of the species have striking and attractive seed heads this is a mix that will provide interest for yourself and visiting wildlife over winter if left uncut. After 2-3 years the area will have to be resown.

Pond Edge mix - The species in this mix are designed to provide a vital environment around the edge of a pond and will also help to soften the look of a man-made water feature. Once planted you can leave these perennial plants the area to mature and develop with no management except for occasional weed control as necessary.

Things to avoid

- Adding fertilizer
- Sowing into existing vegetation

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