

WILDFLOWER SEEDS DETAILS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Getting mini-Meadow ready! We hope you will want to sow your own mini-meadow!

Among the species included in each pack are Corn Cockle, Cornflower, Corn Chamomile, Corn Marigold, Common Poppy, Moon Daisy, Meadowsweet, Cowslip, Meadow Buttercup, Field Scabious and Meadow grasses.

If you decide to have a go, here's how to prepare the ground prior to sowing.

1. The first thing you need to do is select a sunny spot in your garden for your mini-meadow. This will be popular with the countless bees, butterflies and other sun-loving insects, which will be attracted to your meadow.

Don't worry if you have poor soil – in fact, the worse it is, the better the meadow will be!

2. Mark an area equivalent to one square metre (1m²) using sticks and string. If you prefer to have a circular meadow, or even an irregular shape, that is fine. To mark out a circular meadow, use a peg and a piece of string 22 inches (or 112cm) long.
3. Strip off any turf or other vegetation (stack the turf in a shady spot to create another area of habitat!). If there are any nasty perennial weeds, such as brambles and thistles in your meadow area try to dig these out.

If your soil is quite rich, and assuming you have enough energy, consider turning it over to bring the poorer sub-soil to the surface and burying the fertile top soil. Do not apply fertiliser or soil conditioners! Then rake to break up lumps and create a tilth in readiness for seed-sowing.

If all this sounds too much like hard work, you can just use a wire grass rake to vigorously scratch out some of the grass and other vegetation to expose (ideally) up to 50% bare soil to sow into. Either way the ground for your mini-meadow is now ready for you to sow your free seed!

4. **Sow, the next steps...!** The seed we are providing is suitable for sowing on our local heavy clay soil and is ideal for encouraging bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects into your garden.
5. Sow as soon as possible. When you are ready, choose a dry day with no wind. Also, it is best not to sow if your soil is very wet.
6. **Sow Thinly** It is important to sow the seed very thinly. Your pack might not seem very much but it is ample for a One Square Metre mini-meadow! To get an even spread, it can be helpful to mix the seed with a little dry sand.
7. Do not cover the seed as it needs sunlight to germinate. Firm it in gently to get good contact between the seed and the soil. If no rain is forecast, gently water, but take care not to wash the seed away. Do not let the soil dry out and water regularly as necessary.
8. Now, all you need to do is to wait for your seed to germinate!

We would love to see photos of the progress of your wildflowers, so please do share with us via Social Media later in the year.

Good luck and happy sowing!

Credit David Bridges.