

Wildflower Meadows

Time of Year

All year round.

Aim

Learn how to create and manage a wildflower meadow.

Cross Curriculum Relevance

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| SESE: | Living things, exploring/research, recording, observing. |
| Maths: | Measuring, recording, active learning. |
| Literacy: | New words, writing, spelling. |
| Art: | Making flower press, photos. |
| Informal Curriculum: | Discover Primary Science. |



3

1 Resources needed

- Native wildflower seeds
- Bare soil
- Rake
- Sand
- Camera

2 How to create a wildflower meadow - Mowing

- If you leave a piece of grassland alone it will develop into a wildflower meadow. Strategic mowing will keep it tidy and allow different seasonal plants to predominate.
- Traditionally, the meadow is cut for hay in mid June to July with a possible second cut in September - this can be imitated easily in a school.
- For a short flower meadow, cut from March until June, allow to grow over the summer then cut again in autumn.
- Alternatively, don't cut the grass at all and just trim at the beginning of winter or at the end of winter to leave seed heads for the birds.
- If a clean pathway is mowed through the meadow, it allows access and makes it look neater and intentional!
- To maintain low fertility, rake cuttings off and compost (or use as mulch).

Sowing into bare field

- Wildflowers seeds may be broadcast (scattered).
- Add the seeds to sand for easy broadcasting.
- Rake seeds in to the bare soil.
- Protect seed from birds.
- Native seeds in the soil will predominate.
- If the soil is too rich, grass will predominate anyway.
- Maintenance will still be necessary as above and research will be needed as to which cutting method you will need to use.



Growing the success of Irish food & horticulture

Bord Bia
Irish Food Board

Organic Gardening for Primary Schools
Wildflower Meadows





Bord Bia
Irish Food Board

