

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.



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Resources needed

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

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.



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Health & Safety

Use tools safely. Wash hands after garden session.
Please refer to the worksheet on Health & Safety for detailed information.

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Ideas for Research projects

Maths – Estimate amount of wildflower seed required for a given area

SESE – Have 3 pieces of grassland and cut with the three different cutting regimes and observe the different plant and insect species

Local Heritage – Research mowing and grazing practice in your local area

Art/Communications – Make a flower press, make a display for the garden using pressed flowers, leaves and grasses, make scarecrows

Research Words: **BROADCAST**

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Where to go for more information?

Design by Nature www.allgowild.com

Irish Seed Savers Association
www.irishseedsavers.ie

Wildflower identification
www.irishwildflowers.ie



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