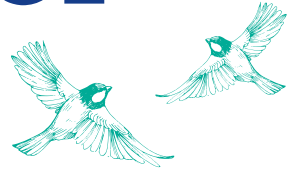


Wildflower meadows

We are looking to create some wildflower meadows in your area.



Wildflower meadows are an amazing habitat that provide bees, butterflies and other pollinators with food throughout the year.



On one sunny, summers day, an acre of wildflower meadow can contain

3 million flowers,
producing 1kg of nectar sugar! That's enough to **support 96,000 honey bees per day.**

Not only are wildflower meadows good for wildlife, but they can also help to boost wellbeing and create a beautiful display for those living nearby.

How it may impact you

- We hope the wildflowers will create a beautiful and vibrant space for you to enjoy.
- We will do our best to choose beautiful, native wildflowers, but there will be times in the year where the meadows don't look as neat as the mowed grass you may be used to. We hope the joy and biodiversity benefits they bring in spring and summer (and sometimes winter!), outweighs the slightly 'messier' stage.
- In some areas, we have NCHA customers who keep an eye on their local wildflower meadows, and let us know of any problems or any exciting flowers/wildlife they see. If you'd like to get involved we'd love to hear from you.

How do we look after wildflower meadows?

Although you won't see our team cutting the grass as frequently, they will still be putting in lots of work.

Year one:

- In either early to mid-spring (March-April) or early autumn, we'll:
 - Clear the area of unwanted plants and grass
 - Sow wildflower seeds into the area.
- Depending on wildflower types, the meadows may be cut in late September/October to a height of around 5cm. If the flowers are for the birds, we'll leave it until February/March to cut so they have seeds over winter.

Year two:

- The wildflowers may be cut for a final time in March if needed, and more seeds may be added to encourage flower growth.
- Some annual flowers, like poppies, may need the soil disturbing to encourage their growth.
- The wildflowers will then be left to grow, flower and seed until autumn.

Types of wildflowers

Different seed mixes can be used to encourage different types of wildlife or to have different impacts on your green spaces.

Examples include:

Bee and butterfly wildflowers:

High nectar plants specifically chosen to attract bees and other pollinators like the buff-tailed bumblebee and the red admiral butterfly.



E.g. Clover, Corn Cockle, **Borage**, Scabious, and Yellow Rattle.



E.g. Dwarf Sunflower, Quinoa, **Birds-foot Trefoil**, Knapweed, Cornflower, and Linseed.

Wildflowers for birds: A wildflower mix specifically chosen to encourage the right insects for wild birds and to create grain-bearing plants for wild birds in winter. To support birds through winter, these wildflowers would not be cut until February/March time.

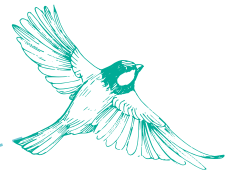
Bold and bright, annual wildflowers:

Although these flowers are attractive to pollinators, they are chosen for their brightly coloured appearance and provide a gorgeous first year display.



E.g. Chamomile, Corn Cockle, Cornflower, Marigold, and **Poppy**.

There are also lots of seed combinations we can try for different spaces, including:



Wetland/pond
edge wildflowers

Hedgerow/light
shade wildflowers



Woodland/heavy
shade wildflowers

Low growing
wildflowers for areas
that need better
visibility (roadsides,
path edges etc.).



Whatever wildflower seeds we use, we'll always ensure they're UK native seeds.



Any questions?

If you want to help plant and/or maintain our wildflower meadows, or if you have any questions, please get in touch with us by emailing: greenleaders@ncha.org.uk