



Factsheet: Welcome Wildflowers



Credit: Marlies Boydell

Sadly, 97% of the UK's wildflower meadows have been lost since the Second World War. Right now, the green spaces in our gardens and even urban settings have a very important role to play in righting this situation. Think about how you can welcome wildflowers, both where you live, and in the neighbourhood – and help turn the tide:

- ✿ **Make a mini meadow** – convert your lawn (or part of it) by planting wildflower seeds - or choose a space within the garden and start from scratch. Remember that cornfield wildflowers will die down in the winter, whereas 'meadow mixtures' give you cover all year round. See the useful Magnificent Meadows factsheet: www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk/assets/pdfs/Mini-meadow.pdf
- 🐛 **Wildlife restaurant** – your garden will come alive and serve a useful purpose if you grow foodplants for insects and birds... expect some nibbles! For a great guide on foodplants for moths and butterflies see <https://butterfly-conservation.org/how-you-can-help/get-involved/gardening>



Grow native plants and their relatives. In Bracknell Forest borough we are aiming to plant more ragged robin, cowslip and the wild service tree, all of which are listed in the Biodiversity Action Plan www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside/wildlife/biodiversity-action-plan



Plant woodland wildflowers in your shady spot. Many native woodland plants are easy to grow, such as bluebell, wood anemone, wood sorrel, forget-me-not and foxglove. Most wildflower suppliers offer a seed or plug plant mix specifically for shade.



May all your weeds be wildflowers. One quick way of growing wildflowers in your garden is to mow your lawn less and allow it to flower. A recent study found that of 60 wild plants studied in gardens, dandelions produce the most nectar and pollen.



Wildflower TV

- How to Sow a Wildflower Patch – GrowWild UK <https://youtu.be/jMHk4CB3eUU>
- BBC Gardeners World – Monty Don talks about wildflower meadows www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07jm2t9
- Sowing wildflowers – GrowVeg https://youtu.be/j2QQ-EeN_vl

For more ideas visit:

Plantlife – Wildflower Selector

https://plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/wildflower_garden/grow_in_the_garden/

RSPB - Plants for Wildlife

www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/plants-for-wildlife/

Royal Horticultural Society – Top 10 British native wildflowers

www.rhs.org.uk/plants/articles/graham-rice/plants-for-places/10-agm-british-natives

Royal Horticultural Society - Wildflower meadow: establishment

www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=436

Suppliers

The closest suppliers to Bracknell Forest are Herbiseed

<http://herbiseed.com/wild/home.aspx> but remember that seeds can be sourced from anywhere in the UK and different suppliers provide different seed mixtures.

Grow Wild UK – This webpage provides a list of wildflower seed and plant suppliers and there are also many tips and good advice on growing wildflowers.

www.growwilduk.com/where-get-uk-native-wildflower-seeds-plants



Year of the Garden 2020 is aimed at helping wildlife in our urban areas, from allotments to road verges, backyards to buildings. The project is organised by the Bracknell Forest Nature Partnership ([click here](#)) to achieve targets in the Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan ([click here](#)).