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PLANTS: GRASSLAND AND FLOWERS Addition of Yellow-rattle



Sometimes grass grows very quickly. Use Yellow-rattle to reduce its vigour. Yellow-rattle is a native hemi-parasitic plant that reduces grass growth creating more open vegetation allowing a greater diversity of wild plants to grow. Ground needs to be prepared by scarifying.

Suitability	Low to medium density housing if sufficient areas of grassland are available.
Management type	Grassland management.
Supplier information	Find a reputable wildflower seed merchant who can supply UK native seeds, preferably locally-sourced. Consult your local Wildlife Trust for advice on suitable suppliers. Information on how to source wildflower seeds can be found at: http://www.growwilduk.com/where-get-uk-native-wildflower-seeds-plants .
Community engagement?	Yes – potential to involve volunteer residents in sowing Yellow-rattle seed as part of a community engagement exercise.
Benefits	Increasing floral diversity: hemi-parasitic plant that reduces grass growth creating more open vegetation allowing a greater diversity of wild plants to grow.
Costs/Disbenefit	Financial cost: Low.
Level of ongoing maintenance	Medium.



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		Notes
How achieved	Ground preparation: scarify grassland area to expose some bare soil among the vegetation. Then sow Yellow-rattle seed.	
Timing of activity	<p>August-March</p> <p>For best results seeds should be sown no later than November. But they can also be sown in early spring, after putting the seeds in a fridge for a couple of weeks to mimic a winter. For more information see http://www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk/assets/pdfs/Using_yellow_rattle_in_restoration.pdf</p>	
Long-term management	<p>Areas with Yellow-rattle should not be cut until it has gone to seed. This is an annual plant so if cut before produces seed then will lose it altogether. Use material from cut ('green hay') once Yellow-rattle is established to spread to other areas of site where the presence of this plant is desirable.</p> <p>In early years of establishment may require extra seed to be purchased and sown in following autumn depending on success in year 1.</p>	
Monitoring success	<p>General recording (see page 6).</p> <p>A butterfly transect or timed count could be set up as part of the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme http://www.ukbms.org, simple butterfly timed counts can be conducted using the European Butterfly Monitoring app https://butterfly-monitoring.net/ebms-app. Flower-Insect Timed (FIT) counts can be conducted as part of the National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (PoMS) https://www.ceh.ac.uk/pollinator-monitoring.</p> <p>Conduct Plantlife's 'Every Flower Counts' survey of lawns to survey the number of flowers present and contribute to calculating a National Nectar Score: http://www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts.</p>	