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## PLANTS: GRASSLAND AND FLOWERS

# Re-seed grassland with native meadow mix



Re-seeding and then, after establishment, reduced mowing. Greater floral diversity creates a greater variety of habitat structure and more resources for invertebrates and other wildlife like birds and mammals. Avoid sowing double-flowered varieties, as these produce little nectar.

<b>Suitability</b>	Low to medium density housing if sufficient areas of grassland are available.
<b>Management type</b>	Grassland management.
<b>Supplier information</b>	Consult your local Wildlife Trust for advice on suitable suppliers.  Information on how to source wildflower seeds can be found at: <a href="http://www.growwilduk.com/where-get-uk-native-wildflower-seeds-plants">http://www.growwilduk.com/where-get-uk-native-wildflower-seeds-plants</a> .
<b>Community engagement?</b>	Yes – volunteer residents can help re-seed grassland areas as part of a community engagement exercise.
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater floral diversity creating more habitat and increased resources for invertebrates and generally enhancing biodiversity.</li> <li>• By leaving certain areas to grow longer and support greater floral diversity you will also provide a greater variety of habitat structure which will also increase biodiversity.</li> </ul>
<b>Costs/Disbenefit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial cost: Low.</li> <li>• May be a perception of ‘untidiness’ by residents. Important to clearly communicate to residents the reasons and benefits to wildlife for leaving areas of long grass.</li> </ul>
<b>Level of ongoing maintenance</b>	Medium.



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		Notes
<b>How achieved</b>	Re-seeding with native wildflower and grass species then after establishment reduced mowing. Avoid double-flowered varieties, as they contain little nectar.	
<b>Timing of activity</b>	Autumn.	
<b>Long-term management</b>	<p>Recommend 2-3 mows per year maximum: year 1 mow in March (spring cut), mid-late July (summer cut) and late September to October (autumn cut).</p> <p>Mow the edges of paths more regularly than the rest to help show residents that this is a deliberate activity. Try not to mow all areas at the same time. Leave a few patches of longer vegetation over winter.</p> <p>Where possible, leave the cuttings in place for 1-3 days to give any sheltering wildlife a chance to move away. Don't leave the cuttings for longer than this time as this can increase soil fertility and reduce the diversity of plants that can grow. Where possible cuttings could be moved elsewhere on site, as they can provide food and shelter for other wildlife. Some plant materials such as hollow plant stems can be used in bug hotels and bee nests.</p>	
<b>Monitoring success</b>	<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 <a href="http://www.ukbms.org">http://www.ukbms.org</a>. Simple butterfly timed counts can be conducted using the European Butterfly Monitoring app <a href="https://butterfly-monitoring.net/ebms-app">https://butterfly-monitoring.net/ebms-app</a>. Flower-Insect Timed (FIT) counts can be conducted as part of the National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (PoMS) <a href="https://www.ceh.ac.uk/pollinator-monitoring">https://www.ceh.ac.uk/pollinator-monitoring</a>.</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: <a href="http://www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts">http://www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts</a>.</p>	