

## Wildflower Meadow Creation and Restoration Checklist

This is a simple checklist to use when creating or restoring a wildflower meadow on a small scale. Use as a reminder of the type of information you may want to collect. The checklist is not exhaustive and there may be other processes that you need to undertake to complete a successful wildflower restoration or recreation.

Ensure there is no other wildlife interest on site, such as waxcap fungi, that may be harmed by the restoration/creation works.

### Site condition

#### 1. What is the starting point for your meadow?

Lawn       Bare ground       Overgrown area

Other

#### 2. How shady and wet is your area?

No shade       Medium shade       Very shady

Dry       Partially water-logged       Water-logged

Note: Most wildflowers need full sun or at least some sun for parts of the day, very shady areas are not suitable for a meadow. Water-logged areas can be considered, look into information on how to manage wet meadow types.

#### 3. How is your area being managed at the moment?

Regularly cut and clippings left

Regularly cut and clippings removed

No regular management

Other /  
extra details on your management

#### 4. Do you know the type of your soil and ph? You can use results of soil testing.

Acid grassland:

Neutral grassland:

Calcareous grassland:

**5. What is already present at your area? This will help you decide whether you need to create a new meadow from scratch or restore and enhance what it already there.**

Less than 5 wildflowers       More than 5 wildflowers       I don't know

Note: Please refer to 'How to make a meadow' leaflet to follow management advice for each option. If you selected I don't know, cut your intended meadow area in March, remove offcuts and let it grow until August to find out how many wild flowers you might already have.

***Creating a meadow***

**6. If you are creating 50-75% bare ground to sow seeds, how are you planning to do this?**

Push-on scarifier or similar <input type="checkbox"/>	
Strimmer / brush-cutter <input type="checkbox"/>	
Hand tools (rakes, mattock) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Chain or tine harrow <input type="checkbox"/>	

**7. What seed source are you using?**

Natural regeneration <input type="checkbox"/>	
Green hay <input type="checkbox"/>	
Collecting seeds <input type="checkbox"/>	
Seed mixture <input type="checkbox"/>	

Rolling or trampling may be required after spreading the seed to put the seeds in contact with the soil.

**8. How big is your meadow area?**

This will help you to calculate how much your seeds will cost. You will need to sow around 4 grams for each m<sup>2</sup> of your meadow.

Meadow size (in m<sup>2</sup>):

How many grams of seeds you will need (meadow size x 4):

Cost of seeds:

Total cost for you meadow size:

**9. Do you need to buy Yellow Rattle?**

You can use the formula above to calculate you costs. Yellow rattle is seeded at 0.5g per m<sup>2</sup>.

## ***Future meadow management***

### **10. How are you planning to cut your site on annual basis after seeding?**

Sit-on mower	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Strimmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Scythe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Flail & collect machine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>

If you are using a strimmer or a scythe, you will need to also plan on how you will collect your offcuts. This can be done by raking or using a sit-on collecting machine. If you are a community group, you can invite a local school, residents or a club and organise a raking event.

### **11. What will you do with your offcuts?**

Compost on site / home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Create reptile habitat pile	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>

### **12. Anything else you need to consider?**

Below are examples of other things you might need to consider to create and manage a meadow in the long-term:

Are there any species of interest you might want to be careful about? These could be waxcap fungi, nesting birds or mammals.

Do you need to seek any permissions from landowners?

Do you need to create signage for your meadow?

Are there any problem species (e.g. thistles, docks) that might require extra time and attention?

Would you like to organise events at your meadow?

Use this space for any extra notes:

Month(s)	Management Actions	Example actions / engagement opportunities
Pre-season		Decide on where to create your meadow Volunteers / residents could be involved in mapping out the proposed meadow areas
March		Cut the proposed meadow area and collect offcuts Volunteers could be used for a raking day
April		If working in public areas, you might need to demarcate your to-be-meadows so these won't get accidentally cut
May		May-August – do not cut, see what grows, then decide whether adding extra seeds is needed
June		
July		Carry out a botanical survey, if not many wildflowers appear, source your seeds for sowing in autumn
August		Cut the meadow areas as short as possible and remove offcuts, use volunteers if appropriate
September		Scarify the area Within a week after scarification, sow meadow areas with Yellow Rattle and / or locally sourced seeds  This could be organised as a public event, inviting families, members of public, local schools. Activities: to measure out meadow areas, calculate seed amounts to be sown, seed sowing and trampling, temporary signage installation
October		Temporary signage can be installed explaining about the bare soil patches and meadow creation to site users
November - March		Don't do anything. If the grass growth is big over the winter, cut & collect your meadow in March and collect offcuts
April		April – August: Let it grow  May-June: pull any problem species before they seed  July: Meadow celebration or opening event!  Ideas for other activities: guest talks about meadows and how to manage them, botanical and insect walks, wildflower painting and art, tea / yoga in the meadow, installation of long-term signage or meadow art
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
Following years		Aug – October: Cut your meadow and collect offcuts  <i>If possible, you can leave the offcuts on the site for 1-2 weeks, spread these around and turn them every few days – this will allow the seeds to fall out</i>  Sow any additional seeds if necessary  Continue annual cutting regime as above Enjoy your meadow and organise activities Once your meadow shows good wildflower diversity, their seeds can be collected to create new meadows!