MeadowSow™ Native Grassland

Product Specification

Contents

Product Code:
MS-N25
Manufacturer:
Wildflower Co.

Manufacturer Contact Details
01256 771 222
wildflower@wildflowerexperts.com
www.wildflowerexperts.com

Technical Specification

Product code	MS-N25
Manufacturer	Wildflower Co.
Recommended sowing rate	4g/m²
Coverage	1kg provides approx 400m² coverage, at a recommended sow rate of 4g/m²
No. of species	25 (20 wildflowers and 5 non-invasive grasses). Access full species list here.
Grass:flora sowing ratio	60% UK native wildflowers*, 40% grasses
Flowering period	April - October
Established height	30-150cm (Avg height 76cm)
Time to fully establish	3-5 years
Soil type	Suitable for a wide range of soil types
Seed provenance and testing	Grown in England using UK native species. Seed analysis results available on request.
Recyclability	100%, including packaging.
BNG suitability	Suitable for Other Neutral Grassland habitats Refer to Habitat & Condition assessment.
Seed mix	Calibrated using seed weight analysis

About the seed

All wildflower seed is grown and harvested in Hampshire, UK (where this is not possible, trusted UK sourced seed is used, which we test to meet our exacting standards). In 2024, a remarkable 97% of the seed was grown and harvested at our main nursery in Hampshire.

This commitment to local sourcing offers several key advantages:

- **UK Provenance:** Our seed boasts UK provenance, ensuring optimal adaptation to native conditions.
- **Elite Seed Quality:** Stringent harvesting and storage protocols, combined with rigorous quality testing, result in elite seed with exceptional viability and germination rates. This also ensures the seed does not contain any contaminants.
- **Traceability:** We maintain complete traceability of our seed, providing transparency and confidence in its origin and quality.
- **The Seed Mix:** Seed weight, size and germination undergoes lab analysis for optimum inclusion rates. Omitting this process affects species diversity.

* Actual % may vary, based on environmental factors and seed availability. You may not see every species listed as the product is designed to adapt to individual settings, including a wide range of soil types and environmental conditions. Many species may not flower within the first year.

Species List

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All seed grown by Wildflower Co. is tested to stringent standards for germination and purity.

Seed analysis results are available on request.

Species	Flowering Time	Ultimate Height	Colour	Life Cycle
Wildflower Species				
Birdsfoot Trefoil *(Lotus corniculatus)*	May - Sept	30		P
Black Medic *(Medicago lupulina)*	Apr - July	60		P
Bladder Campion *(Silene vulgaris)*	May - Sept	100		P
Common Knapweed *(Centaurea nigra)*	June - Sept	100		P
Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa)*	June - Aug	80		P
Kidney Vetch *(Anthyllis vulneraria)*	June - Sept	25		P
Lady's Bedstraw *(Galium verum)*	June - Sept	50		P
Oxeye Daisy *(Leucanthemum vulgare)*	May - July	90		P
Perrenial Flax *(Linum perenne)*	May - June	60		P
Perforate St John's Wort *(Hypericum perforatum)*	June - Aug	150		P
Red Campion *(Silene dioica)*	Apr - July	100		P
Ribwort Plantain *(Plantago lanceolata)*	Apr - Oct	90		P
Sainfoin *(Onobrychis vicifolia)*	June - Aug	80		P
Self Heal *(Prunella vulgaris)*	May - Sept	30		P
Viper's Bugloss *(Echium vulgare)*	June - Aug	120		BI
White Campion *(Silene latifolia)*	May - Sept	100		SLP
Wild Carrot *(Daucus carota)*	June - Oct	150		P
Wild Marjoram *(Origanum vulgare)*	June - Aug	100		P
Yarrow *(Achillea millefolium)*	June - Aug	90		P
Yellow Rattle *(Rhinanthus minor)*	May - July	50		SLP
Grasses				
Chewing's Fescue *(Festuca rubra commutata)*	May - July	30		P
Crested Dog's-tail *(Cynosurus cristatus)*	June - Aug	75		SLP
Sheep's Fescue *(Festuca ovina)*	May - June	30		P
Slender Creeping Red Fescue *(Festuca rubra litoralis)*	June - July	50		P
Yellow Oat Grass *(Trisetum flavascens)*	June - July	60		P

*You may not see every species listed as the product is designed to adapt to individual settings, including a wide range of soil types and environmental conditions. Many species may not flower during the first year.

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Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Projects

BNG Habitat & Condition Assessment

The below information is subject to ecologist & LPA approval/report and is dependent on installation guide and maintenance instructions provided by Wildflower Co. being correctly followed.

What BNG habitat can Native Grassland create?			
	Lowland Meadow	**Lowland Calcareous**	**Other Neutral Grassland**
No of indicator species	8 - Not suitable for BNG	8 - Not suitable for BNG	N/A
Condition on installation	N/A	N/A	Poor
Condition at 5 years *(providing management plan followed)*	N/A	N/A	Moderate
Condition at 30 years *(providing management plan followed)*	N/A	N/A	Good

Ensuring Success - Consultancy and Handover

Our consultancy offers several options for ensuring long term success of wildflower installations. High value projects will benefit from early advice on the practicalities of planning, establishment, handover and long-term maintenance, verifying products meet specifications and objectives for wildflower habitat creation. We can also ensure the installation and maintenance contractor understands specification, product and maintenance requirements at any stage of the project. This is particularly valuable at site handover, in advance of maintenance work or where contracts and/or contractors change during the lifetime of the project.

An Installation Certificate can be provided upon installation as part of some consultancy packages to certify that the product has been installed correctly.

View consultancy and BNG consultancy packages here.

Preparation and installation

For a project to thrive, correct installation and management plans must be planned for from the offset.

Sowing time

Typically, autumn sowing mirrors nature more accurately and gives more reliable establishment results. Spring sown crops can be slow to grow following a cold spring and will be at higher competition with weeds. However a warm spring with moderate rainfall can produce similar success as an autumn install. Some perennial species may not flower in the first year from spring sowing.

Soil preparation

Existing vegetation should be killed or removed. Dig over or rotovate the soil to at least 100mm deep and rake over to create a reasonably fine seed bed. Remove large stones, roots or clods of earth as it is important to remove risk of weed seeds growing that may be hidden beneath. Allow for a green flush of growth following rotovation then kill off, repetition of this process as required.

Soil conditions and fertility

Ensure soil is not waterlogged or compacted prior to sowing wildflower seed. The soil does not need to be fertilised before or after sowing the seed. However, where soil is fertile, particular attention must be paid to the maintenance regime – see maintenance section.

Sowing the seed

The MeadowSow™ seed needs to be installed on a minimum of 100mm (4 inches) of growing medium or top soil, the deeper the soil depth the greater capability of moisture retention and less irrigation required. There is usually no need to import top soil unless the levels on site are not sufficient or there is just sub-soil. In this case, a thin layer of 25-50mm (minimum) of low fertility top soil is recommended. Avoid compaction of subsoil layer. Please refer to Wildflower Co. if unsure. Drill or broadcast the seed manually or by mechanical means where available. When broadcasting, it can be advantageous to mix 50% seed with 50% dry sand, which both bulks up the volumes, and enables one to easily see where seed has been spread. Lightly roll the soil to ensure good seed to soil contact.

Watering

Once installed, water the area thoroughly, for the first couple of weeks (weather dependent), until seeds have germinated and seedlings begin to emerge. This typically takes 2 – 4 weeks. Water the area regularly to ensure it remains consistently moist but not overwatered which can impact germination and establishment. Once established the wildflowers can be fairly drought tolerant and shouldn't need watering again.

BNG considerations

To ensure condition assessment criteria are met, ensure cover of bare ground is between 1-5% and weed species such as bracken, bramble, thistle, dock, nettle, creeping buttercup, greater plantain, white clover and cow parsley are completely removed prior to installation. A post installation management plan must also be in place to ensure longevity of the habitat - see maintenance plan.

Maintenance

Management plan for long term success

Fertiliser

No fertiliser is needed as this will encourage grasses and other potential weeds to dominate the area. If thought that fertiliser may be required for a specific site please contact Wildflower Co. for advice.

Year 1 & 2 Maintenance

During the first year following installation, spring only, the growth must be kept down to 20cm by a series of short maintenance cuts throughout the early flowering season, typically April to June. This will aid control of spring weeds. Do not cut below 20cm as this will impact the development of low growing species. Use of a mower and collector is the most effective for these cuts. It is critical that all cuttings are removed from the site at each maintenance cut to ensure fertility is not increased. For summer or autumn sowing, the area can be left to grow naturally in the first spring and throughout the flowering season. At the end of the flowering season, prior to the winter period, the area should be cut as detailed below.

In year 2 allow the meadow to grow naturally throughout the flowering period until the end of the season, do one final cut and remove in late September to early October to prepare for winter by cutting the meadow down to 2-3 inches (50-75mm) off the ground and remove all cuttings. Best practice for this is to reduce the bulk of the plant volume down through use of reciprocating blade, i.e. hedge trimmer, then go over with a mower and collector on maximum height. Make sure the tools are sharp. No cuttings should be left following the cut as this will increase the fertility in the area which encourages grasses and more dominant species to thrive. It is also important to remove all leaf litter that falls onto the area.

Annual Maintenance

Best practice for this is to reduce the bulk of the plant volume down through use of reciprocating blade, i.e. hedge trimmer, then go over with a mower and collector on maximum height. Make sure the tools are sharp. No cuttings should be left following the cut as this will increase the fertility in the area which encourages grasses and more dominant species to thrive.

Timing the cut

The annual maintenance cut should be done in late September, early October. There is no need for a set date, but this timing will allow the plants in the meadow to regenerate before the first frost typically in November. You can choose to cut only half of the meadow area at one time to allow time for fauna to migrate to the uncut meadow. Allow some regrowth of the cut area before cutting the second half, but aim to have finished all cutting by the end of the first week of October. Over time alternate the areas that are cut early and the areas that are left as this will benefit species diversity.

Managing fertility in the ground

On fertile sites or where you might have species dominance or too vigorous early growth, a second cut at the end of May, beginning of June can be introduced. This high cut, approximately 8 to 10 inches off the ground (200mm to 250mm) to remove the flower heads but leaving enough plant stems and leaf area to regenerate, and removal of all cuttings, will help to knock back some species dominance, reduce soil fertility and open up the sward to more light and air circulation to promote diversity of lower growing species. Once the cutting has been completed and all cuttings removed, give the area a good soaking with water to encourage the next flush of growth. Introducing this early summer cut and removal will mean your second autumn cut and removal will be later that year, up to the end of October.

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