Our top plant picks: annual wildflowers that are easy to grow

These plants are resilient and will cope with tough growing conditions. As sensory-rich plants, they are great for pollinators, the climate and us.

Red poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*)

The classic red poppy sets fields alight in early summer. The silky-soft petals contrast with coarse hairy stems and hard, urn-shaped seed capsules. Seeds last a long time in the ground and need light to germinate, so bare soil is important. They make a lot of new seed in autumn.



Corn marigold (*Glebionis segetum*)

One of the most striking wildflowers with bright yellow daisy flowers sitting above waxy, feathery grey-green leaves. It flowers through summer and is attractive to pollinators. It is easy to grow and a standard ingredient in annual wildflower mixes.



Cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*)

One of the prettiest wildflowers with its mass of intensely blue flowers. Frills of petals surround dark eyes, soft to touch and contrasting with the narrow, wiry stems. The flowers attract pollinatiing insects while the hard seed capsules can be left to attract birds, such as goldfinches.



Corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*)

This wildflower is now quite rare in the wild and is sought after for wildflower meadows. It brings white-eyed pink flowers and soft, narrow grey-green leaves through summer, attracting lots of beneficial pollinating insects, including bees.



Corn chamomile (*Anthemis arvensis*)

This creeping plant has masses of small daisy-like flowers through summer and autumn and is very attractive to pollinators. The small leaves are feathery and fern-like. When crushed, their scent is strong and pungent.



Key to growing options: seed young plant (plug) bulb