

# A year of wildflowers

A Widgit guide for growing, looking after  
and enjoying wildflowers at home.



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Look



Choose



Prepare



Sow

Cut



# A Year Of Wildflowers

Monitor



Care



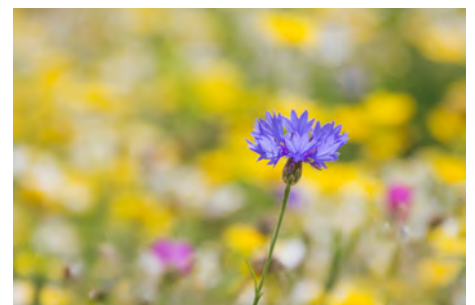
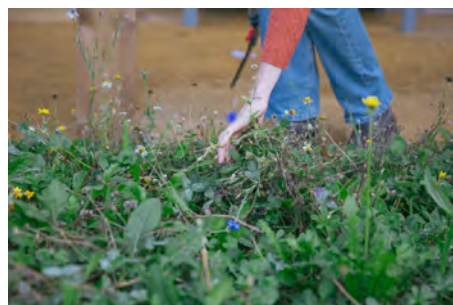
# Creating a wildflower space

Welcome to a year of activity taking you through the process of growing your own wildflowers. This is for anyone who'd love to welcome more biodiversity with wildflowers, whether planting a pot, balcony, or garden. These activities will give you ideas throughout the year of how to start, look after, monitor, and enjoy your patch of wildflowers, however big or small it may be. You should be able to do an activity every few weeks throughout the year but they can be done at your own pace and you can pick the ones that most suit you. This wildflower pack includes how to guides and checklists that help you:

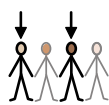
- plan your space,
- create a wildflower space,
- look after your space,
- sustain a wildflower space,
- join in activities connected to wildflowers.

Wildflowers are great at doing their own thing, yet they will still need a little help to establish and maintain growth each year.

This pack guides you through everything you need to know. We've also provided lots of fun and informative activities.



# Introduction to wildflowers



Wildflowers are flowers that some people call weeds.



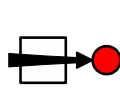
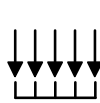
But wildflowers are very important.



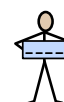
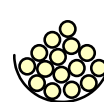
Wildflowers are easy to grow. Wildflowers can grow in different



places, shade, sun, dry and damp places.



Wildflowers grow all across the UK.



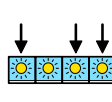
Wildflowers are very old flowers and can have lots of different names.



The cornflower can be known as brooms + brushes, pin cushion, witch's thimble,



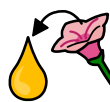
blavers, ladder love, corn blinks, and blue bonnets.



Wildflowers often have stories about them.



Wildflowers support lots of different creatures



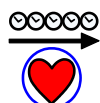
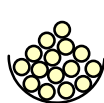
Bees and butterflies collect the nectar.



Moths and beetles eat the leaves.



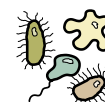
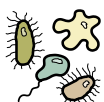
Birds eat the seeds.



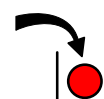
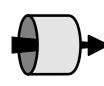
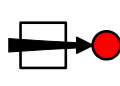
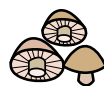
Wildflowers help lots of insects to survive.



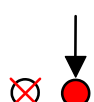
Wildflowers help make the soil healthy








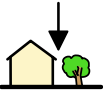
Wildflowers feed organisms in the soil like worms, insects, microbes







and fungi. Wild flowers pass sugars through their roots into the soil.









This keeps the soil healthy and helps other plants to grow.

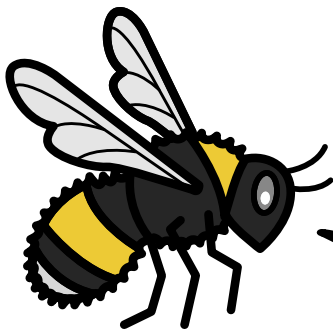
       
Wildflowers can be grown in lots of different places





     
You can grow wildflowers in a pot.

     
You can grow wildflowers in a window box.
































     
You can grow wildflowers in a flowerbed.

       
You can even make a whole wildflower meadow!


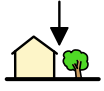
































     
Where will you grow your wildflowers?

# Creating a wildflower space

	   <p>First steps</p>	Done?
1	    <p>Do you have a map of your outdoor space?</p>    <p>If not, could you draw one?</p>	
2	     <p>Are there any plans to grow anything else in the space?</p>	
3	   <p>If anyone else is responsible for the space,</p>    <p>tell them your plans.</p>	
4	     <p>Find out if there is any money to buy seeds.</p>	
5	     <p>Think of where there is lots of sun in your space.</p>	



	  <p>Choosing a space</p>	Done?
1	       <p>Explore your outdoor space and find a good place to grow some wildflowers.</p>	
2	       <p>Take your map, so you can mark possible places on it.</p>	

	  <p>Things to think about</p>	Done?
1	   <p>How big do you want the space to be?</p>	
2	     <p>How much time do you have to look after the space?</p>	
3	      <p>How much money do you have to buy the seeds? For enough seeds for 1m<sup>2</sup>, it will cost about £4.00.</p>	

# Choosing your wildflowers

For a successful wildflower space you need to choose flowers that will grow well in your area.

A good way to find this out is to visit local greenspaces and see what is growing. The best time to do this is in the spring or summer.





















You can also find out from your local wildlife trust. They will have good information online or if they have sites you can visit you may be able to speak to someone. Sometimes there is a need to grow flowers that have declined in places. You may be able to plant wildflowers that support caterpillars or other creatures who are struggling to find homes. Some insects need specific plants to lay their eggs or feed from. Thinking about what will work well or needs support in your area will help make the best of your wildflower space.


















It is important when choosing wildflowers to know what type of soil you have. Some plants will only grow in certain types of soil. By knowing what type of soil you have, you can help avoid picking the wrong plants.

The three main types of soil are sandy, clay and silt (the other three are loam, chalk and peat). The following page has a guide taking you through testing which type of soil you have. You may want to test the pH of your soil. This is a fun activity and will help you to understand your soil better.

It is also good to think about what type of weather you have where you will be growing your wildflowers. Is it a particularly wet place, does it flood? Does it get very dry? Knowing this can help you choose the right wildflowers. Lots of wildflowers prefer very sunny spots, but some will grow in more shady areas. If you can find somewhere with lots of sun this will make it easier to grow them.

# Knowing your soil

Task		Done?
1	     <p>Collect soil from your outdoor space, about 2 tablespoons.</p>	
2	      <p>Put the soil in a bowl, add a splash of water and mix.</p>	
3	    <p>Pick up the soil and shape it into a ball.</p>	
4	     <p>Carefully squash it in between index finger and thumb.</p>	

If it...	
     <p>...breaks apart quickly and crumbles, you have sandy soil.</p>	
       <p>...breaks apart slowly and falls into bigger clumps, you have silty soil.</p>	
     <p>...barely breaks apart but squishes, you have clay soil.</p>	

## Working out your wildflower mix

You can buy ready-made wildflower mixes but you may want to make up your own.

Firstly you will need to work out the size of the space where you'd like to sow your wildflowers.

Measure one side and multiply it by the edge of the other.

It is likely not a perfect square or rectangle, you can mark out a rough space and measure that.

Here's an example: one side is 2 metres and another side is 2.5 metres.

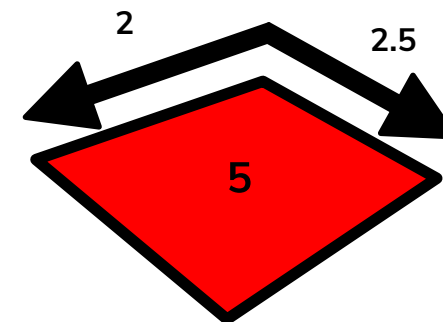
$$2\text{m} \times 2.5\text{m} = 5\text{m}^2$$

Once you have the area of your space, we recommend 5 grams of wildflower seed per metre squared.






If you're doing a big area and that becomes too expensive, you can reduce the amount but we wouldn't recommend doing less than 3g of seed per metre squared.

If we use the example above  $5\text{m}^2$  multiplied by 5 grams means we would need a total of 25g of wildflower seed.






We also recommend certain flower types make up a specific percentage of the total mix. This is so one particular wildflower doesn't dominate the space. These recommendations are on the next page. We have chosen these because they flower in the spring and early summer and usually grow and flower easily. They are a list of suggestions you could choose from; you are always free to do your own research or buy your own ready-made mix.









# List of easy to grow wildflowers and their recommended percentages

Wildflower		Percentage of total	Notes
	corn chamomile <i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	10	Annual. Prefers sandy soil. Can be sown in spring or autumn.
	corn cockle <i>Agrostemma githago</i>	10	Annual. Prefers sandy, loamy soil. Can be sown in spring or autumn but does tend to prefer spring sowing, due to the seed being short lived once in the soil.
	cornflower <i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	20	Annual. Prefers chalky, loamy, sandy or clay soils.
	corn marigold <i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	10	Annual. Prefers gravelly and slightly acid soils. Can be sown in spring or autumn but does tend to prefer spring sowing.
	common poppy <i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	15	Annual. Does well in all soil types, grows best when it's well drained and in full sun.












# List of easy to grow wildflowers and their recommended percentages

Wildflower		Percentage of total	Notes
	red clover <i>Trifolium pratense</i>	2	Perennial. Can be sown in spring or autumn but does tend to prefer spring sowing. Prefers slightly acidic soil.
	red campion <i>Silene dioica</i>	5	Perennial. Does best in well-draining sandy, gravelly or loamy soils. It won't do well in heavy clay. Prefers soil with a neutral or slightly alkaline pH.
	yellow rattle <i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	5	Annual. Sow in autumn. It needs the cold winter in order to be able to germinate. It's a great flower to have in the mix as it is good at suppressing grasses.
	knapweed <i>Centaurea nigra</i>	5	Perennial. Does well in all soil types, grows best when it's well drained and in full sun.
	ox-eye daisy <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	3	Perennial. Does well in all soil types, grows best when it's well drained and in full sun to part shade.

# List of easy to grow wildflowers and their recommended percentages

Wildflower		Percentage of total	Notes
	trefoil / bird's foot <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	2	Perennial. Spring or autumn sowing and does well in all soil types, grows best when it's well drained and in full sun.
	self heal <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	4	Perennial. Does well in all soil types, grows best when it's well drained and in full sun to partial shade.
	meadow cranesbill <i>Geranium pratense</i>	2	Perennial. Does well in all soil types, grows best when it's well drained and in full sun to partial shade.
	musk mallow <i>Malva moschata</i>	1	Perennial. Spring or autumn sowing and does well in all soil types, grows best when it's well drained. It does well in dry places.
	crested dogstail <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	3	Grass. Does well in all soil types except waterlogged, grows best when it's well drained and in full sun to partial shade.
	sheeps fescue <i>Festuca ovina</i>	3	Grass. Prefers spring sowing. Does well in all soil types, grows best when it's well drained and in full sun to partial shade.

# Working out your wildflower mix: an example

Wildflower space is 5m <sup>2</sup> - total seed weight of 25g		
Wildflower Seeds	Percentage of total	Weight (grams)
 corn chamomile	15	3.75
 corn cockle	12	3
 cornflower	20	5
 corn marigold	15	3.75
 poppy	15	3.75
 red clover	2	0.5
 yellow rattle	5	1.25
 knapweed	5	1.25
 ox eye daisy	3	0.75
 red campion	5	1.25
 sheeps fescue	3	0.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	25g

## How to work out the weight of each type of flower seed

Divide the percentage by 100. Then multiply the answer by the total weight of the seed.

For example, if all of your wildflower seed mix need to add up to 25 grams in total and your poppy seed needs to be 15%, this is how you work out the weight.

$$15 \div 100 = 0.15$$

$$0.15 \times 25\text{g} = 3.75\text{g}$$



# Working out your wildflower mix

Wildflower Seeds	Percentage of total	Weight (grams)
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	

### How to work out the weight of each type of flower seed

Divide the percentage by 100. Then multiply the answer by the total weight of the seed.




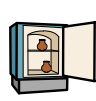









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











$$15 \div 100 = 0.15$$

$$0.15 \times 25\text{g} = 3.75\text{g}$$



























# Autumn wildflower seed sowing

Sowing seeds in the autumn will give you the best chance of having a great display of wildflowers in the summer months. The overview is below and then the following few pages show the stages in more detail.

 You will need...		
  wildflower seeds	  kiln dried sand	 scales
  rake and spade	 gloves	 bowls
 bags	 spoons	 plastic cup





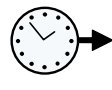






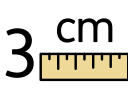




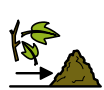




















<h2>Overview of all the stages</h2>		
1	     Make wildflower seed mix, page 19	
2	   Prepare the ground, page 20	
3	   Sow the seeds outside, page 21	
4	    Protect your growing wildflowers, page 22	

# Make the wildflower seed mix





































Task	Done?
<p>1</p>     <p>You should have chosen your seeds and worked out the ratio.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;"><b>4:3</b></p>	
<p>2</p>     <p>Weigh out each type of seed.</p>	
<p>3</p>     <p>Add all the seeds to a big bowl. Mix them together.</p>	
<p>4</p>      <p>Add seeds to the kiln dried sand.</p> <p>5</p>   <p>1</p>   <p>Five parts sand, one part seed.</p>	
<p>5</p>      <p>Carefully mix the sand into the seeds.</p>	



# Prepare the ground

Task	Done?
<p>1</p>      <p>Mark out where your wildflower area will be.</p>	
<p>2</p>   <p>Mow the grass short.</p>	
<p>3</p>        <p>Remove the turf, by digging up the top 3 cm of grass and soil.</p>	
<p>4</p>       <p>Put the turf on a compost pile, or upside down in a place to rot.</p>	
<p>5</p>        <p>Rake the soil to loosen the top layer. This makes a seed bed.</p>	
<p>6</p>    <p>You are now ready to sow the seed.</p>        <p>Don't wait too long, or things will grow again.</p>	

# Sow the seeds

Task		Done?
1	    <p>Go to your prepared wildflower space.</p>	
2	      <p>Sprinkle the area with the seed and sand mix evenly.</p>     <p>The sand will highlight where you've sown.</p>	
3	     <p>Gently push down on the sand with your hands.</p>     <p>Just enough for the seeds to touch the soil.</p>	
4	      <p>With any spare sand, sprinkle it on top, no more than 0.5 cm</p>  <p>deep.</p>	
5	      <p>If it doesn't rain within 2 days of sowing. Water gently.</p>	

# Protecting your growing wildflowers

Ideas...



Make sure



no one



walks



on the wildflower



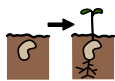
beds



whilst



the flowers



are germinating,



in the autumn



and spring.



You could



make



and display



a sign



telling



people



about the wildflowers.



If it's very



dry,



hot,



and sunny



during



spring,



make sure



you remember



to water











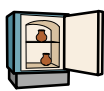

your flowers
































gently.
























# Growing wildflowers in pots in the autumn and spring

 You will need...	 flowerpot	 peat-free compost	 garden soil
	  stones gravel	  wildflower seeds	  kiln dried sand

Task: prepare your pot		Done?
1	 Check the pot has holes for drainage.	
	 Check the garden soil has no weeds, big stones or clay.	
2	 Put a layer of stones in the bottom of the pot.	
3	 Mix together the soil and compost. Equal amounts of both.	
4	 Fill the pot with the soil and compost mix. Leave a 2.5 cm gap at the top of the pot.	








Task: sow the seeds		Done?
1	      <p>Sprinkle a thin layer of seeds across the soil.</p>	
	      <p>Gently push down on the seeds, just enough so they touch the soil.</p>	
2	        <p>Sprinkle a layer of sand to cover the seeds, less than 0.5 cm thick.</p>	
3	    <p>Water gently so you don't move the seeds.</p>	

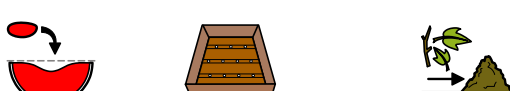
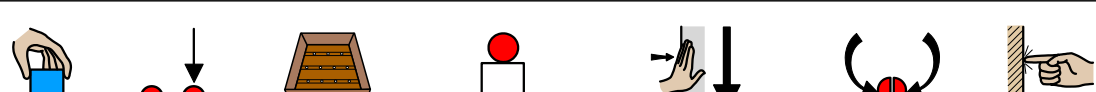




Task: growth		Done?
1	    <p>Put your pot in a sunny place.</p>	
2	       <p>Water gently and regularly. It can help to set a reminder.</p>	
3	    <p>Your wildflowers will flower in the spring and summer.</p>	
4	      <p>Enjoy all the butterflies and bees that will visit.</p>	


















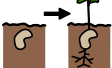





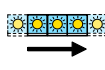

























# Sowing seed trays

You may find it useful to grow some wildflowers in seed trays. Planting individual seeds and labelling them means you'll recognise what's appearing in your wildflower space. You can also use them to fill up your space if it's looking patchy.

 You will need...	 seeds	 sand	 gloves
	 peat-free compost	 seed trays	 spoons

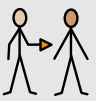




Task: Sowing the seed trays		Done?
1	 Fill the seed tray with compost.	
2	 Put another seed tray on top and push down. This makes it firm.	
3	 Water the compost.	
4	 Add more compost so it's level with the top of the seed tray.	
5	 Sprinkle a few seeds in each section of the seed tray.	
6	 Sprinkle a thin layer of sand, to cover the seeds.	

 You  will need...	 water	 watering can	 rose
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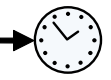









Task: Looking after the seed trays	Done?
<p>1</p>  Keep  your seed tray  in a place  with natural light  but not  full sun.	
<p>2</p>  Keep  the seed trays  indoors  whilst  they germinate.	
<p>3</p>  Keep  soil  moist  by watering  every  few days.	
<p>4</p>  Use a  watering can  with a rose,  so you don't  wash away  the seeds.	
<p>5</p>  When  seedlings  are 5-10 cm  tall,  plant  each  section  of the seed tray  in the soil  or  in a large  container  outside.	<p>Do not   try   split up   the seedlings,   it will   damage   their roots.</p>


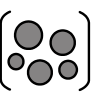




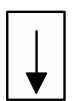

# Hay cut at the end of the growing season

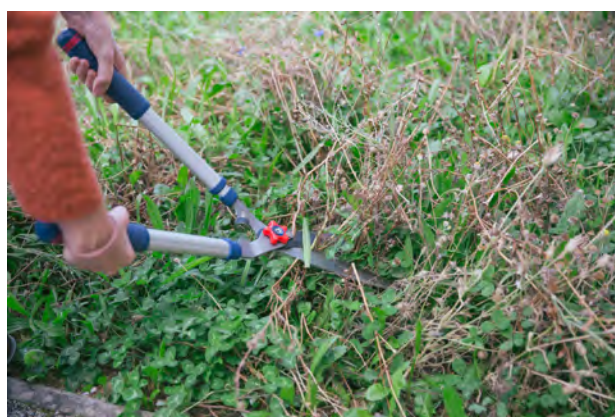
It is important to cut back your wildflower space at the end of the growing season. Wildflowers do not like soil with lots of nutrients in it. You need to remove anything that is going to rot down like old leaves and stems of plants.


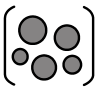
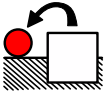
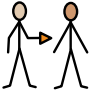



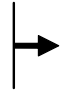


 you  will need...	 lawn mower	 rake	 shears
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## Task



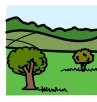

- 1  Wait  until  August or  early  September  and you want  your flowers
-  as dry as  possible.  Watch  the weather.





- 2  Look for  bunches  of flowers that
-  are upright  with seed heads.  Cut them
-  at the base  with the shears.






- 3  Put  the bunches  aside,  you're  going to  collect  the seed  from the
-  dead  flowers.

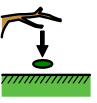

Task

**4**     Rake your wildflower space. Remove

    all dead grass and flowers.



**5**    Can you see any seed that has already

  fallen to the ground?



**6**     Put everything you remove on

 the compost pile.

   Do not leave anything

  on the wildflower space.



## Task

7



Some plants may have grown that you don't want, like thistles or



stinging nettles next to the path. Now is a good time to pull them up.

8



To tidy up for autumn, mow over your wildflower space once, do not



cut it too low. Collect the cuttings and put them on the compost pile.

9

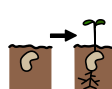


Protect the area and do not cut it again in the winter or spring.

10



Lots of seeds will have fallen onto the soil.




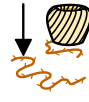



Wait for the new seeds to germinate for more flowers next year.

# Harvesting seeds



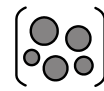





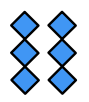
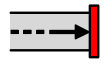
At the end of each growing season for the wildflowers, when their seed heads are ready, you will be able to collect seeds you have grown. You can use these to over sow your existing wildflower spaces, expand the spaces, or share them with other people and places to help them create wildflower spaces.

By identifying seed heads and collecting them you can explore the variety of seeds. You may also want design your own seed packets to give away to friends.








 <p>you will need...</p>	 <p>paper bags</p>	 <p>scissors</p>	 <p>twine</p>	 <p>box</p>
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## Task








1     and bring them   carefully to a work space.

2      All  the seed heads  need to be    at the same end.



## Task

3      
 When you have your bunches, tie  
    
 the end with twine tightly.



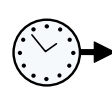







4      
 Put a paper bag over the seed heads,  
    
 tie it on loosely with twine.



5      
 Attach all the bunches with twine,  
     
 and hang to dry for at least a week.









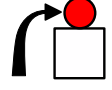


         
 A good place would be a shed. Somewhere warm and dry.



Task

6  1  the seed heads  are dry,  give  the bunches  a gentle shake.

 The seed  should  drop  into  the bag.  Remove  the flowers and stems.

7  Pour  your seed  into  an airtight container  and write  the date on it.

8  You can  sow the seeds  later  in the autumn  or  onto  new  areas

 of soil and  containers.





# Plants in the wrong place

It is important to understand how to give your wildflower space the best chance of success. You will need to look after it and make sure only the plants you want are growing there.

## Sometimes they are called weeds

Plants are very resilient and can grow in some challenging places.

When we are growing specific plants like wildflowers we don't want other plants growing in their space.

These plants might be known as weeds, they are just plants growing in the wrong place for us and our wildflower plans!

Plants need space, food and light to grow successfully.

You will need to remove any plants that will compete with the wildflowers.

## Some plants to be aware of

Some common plants that might move in are; brambles, thistles, and stinging nettles. You should remove these as they will grow too big and crowd the wildflowers.

You may have lots of grasses as well, these will need to be removed as they are more aggressive than wildflowers and will take over the space.

*You don't want stinging nettle in your wildflower patch but they are great in the right place, did you know*

- Nettles are loved by small caterpillars; small tortoiseshell and peacock butterflies use them as foodplants.
- You might find ladybirds eating the aphids that use them for shelter.
- Apparently children were asked to collect nettles in the second world war so they could make a dark green dye for camouflage!

On the next page, there are some simple instructions explaining how to remove plants in the wrong place. It is important to try to get as much of the roots up, as possible. This will stop it growing back.

Be careful around your wildflowers, think about how you will get to the weed to not disturb or squash other plants.

Sometimes animals will hide acorns or other tree seeds for the winter and then forget about them. They may grow into tree seedlings.

If you find tree seedlings in your space you will need to remove those too. Carefully dig around the seedling, gathering up as much of the root as you can. Then transport it to another place where it can grow, and plant it into the ground.

## How often and when in the year

Check your space every 2-3 months in the winter. The plants will need to grow big enough so you can identify them. If you are in doubt, let them grow more and then weed them out. As long as you get them before they flower and seed that is all that matters.

## Activity




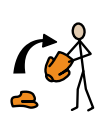












Can you count how many plants in the wrong place you remove from your wildflower space? If you keep a note you can compare each year.

Talk about how the plants ended up in the wrong place.



# Removing plants in the wrong place

 <p>You will need...</p>	 <p>gardening gloves</p>	 <p>trowel</p>
---	---	---

Task		Done?
1	   <p>Identify the plants you want to remove.</p>	
2	  <p>Put on your gloves.</p>	
3	   <p>With a trowel, dig around the weed.</p>	
4	    <p>Hold the bottom of the plant and ease it out.</p>     <p>Try and remove as much of the roots as possible.</p>	

# Over sowing and extending your wildflower space

## Over sowing

It is important to look after your wildflower space year on year. You will need to remove plants that are in the wrong place, and cut it back at the end of the season.

You may also want to make your space bigger or sow more seeds on top of your wildflower patch to fill in any gaps or increase the diversity of flowers. This is known as over sowing.

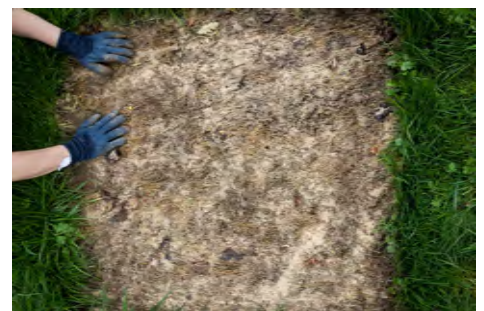
To over sow your wildflower space you will want to make sure you have done the hay cut and the space is clear of any plants in the wrong place. You can use a new seed mix, seeds you have collected, or new specific seeds to increase diversity in you space.

Simply scatter over some seeds mixed with sand in the autumn, and gently press into the soil if you can reach. You want to do this before it gets too cold. September time is perfect. This is a good way to top up your space and increase any areas that may have been a bit patchy.

## Extending your space

If you want to increase the size of your wildflower space you will have to go through the original process of digging up the existing ground. Follow the guidance in the autumn seed sowing sheet.

You might want to slowly increase the size of your wildflower space each year so you can welcome more insects and birds.



# Monitoring wildflowers and wildlife

Once your wildflowers are out you have a good opportunity to see what has grown and which creatures are coming to visit!

Hopefully you have got a few different flowers that will be attractive to bees, butterflies and beetles!

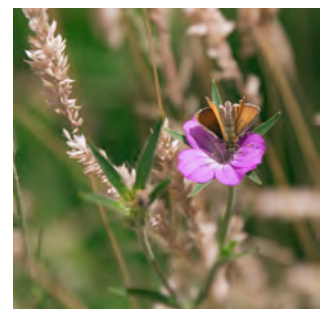
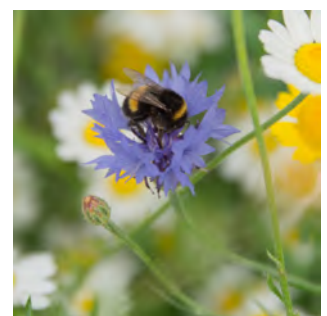
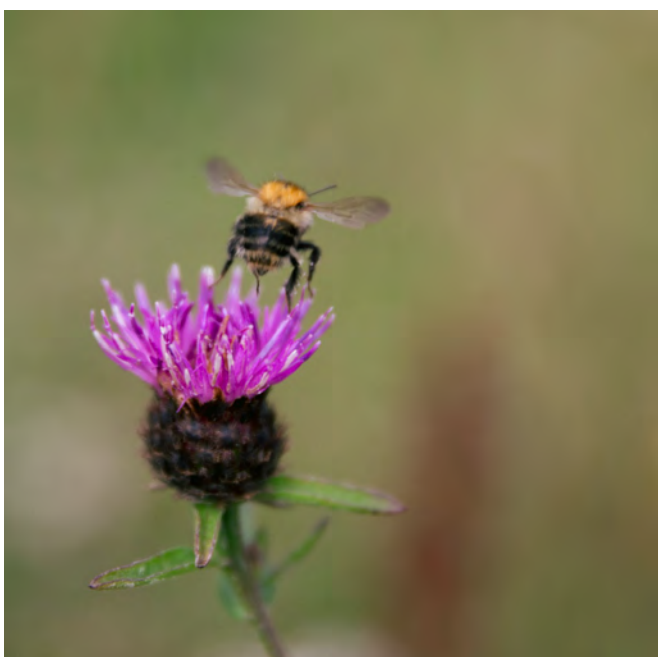
It is good to see what you have grown so you can keep building on your wildflower space. You can over sow with different seeds to increase the diversity each year.

It is good to do several monitoring sessions throughout the growing season.

## Extending the activity

You could use bug pots to carefully catch any creepy crawlies you find, make sure you release them afterwards!

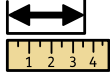
You could take a tally of the creatures you find and plot your results in a graph. You could repeat your monitoring and investigate if there are particular times of the day/season when the wildlife is more or less active.



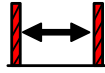
# Monitoring wildflowers and wildlife



Let's



measure



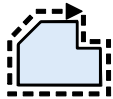
the distance



around



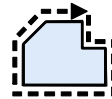
the meadow.



This is the perimeter.



The meadow's



perimeter is .....



In the meadow,



I can



see...



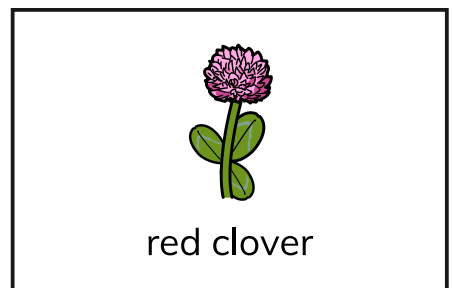
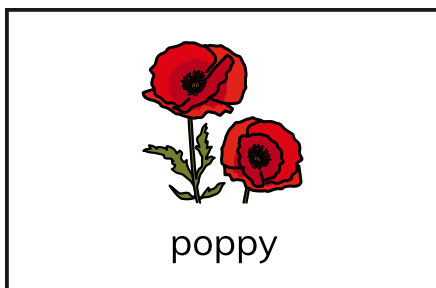
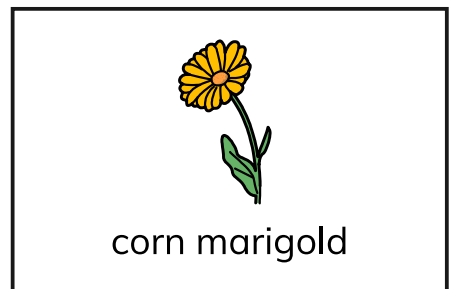
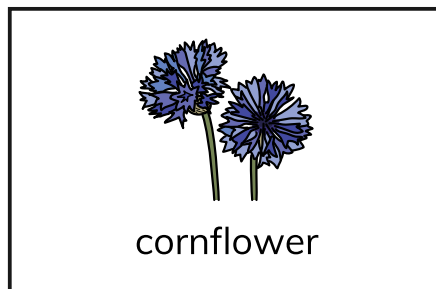
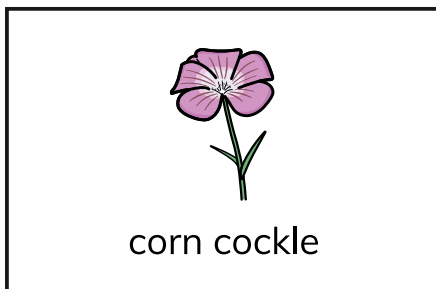
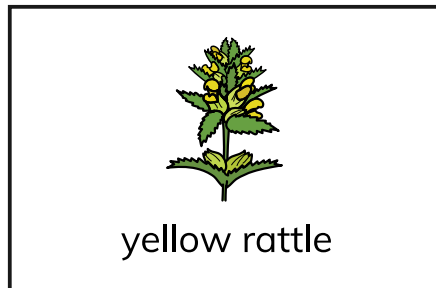
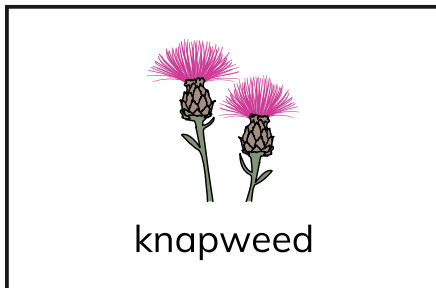
(tick the boxes

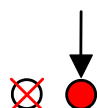


of the flowers






you can see)





Can you see any other wildflowers?

 Name	 Draw it	 How many?




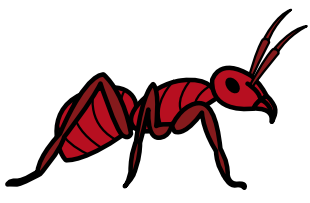
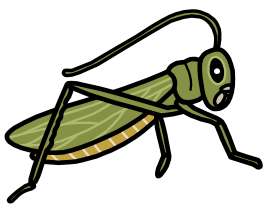
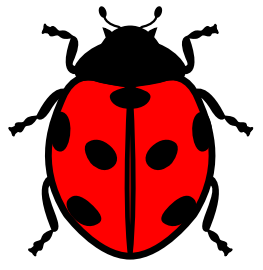

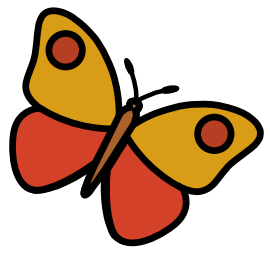
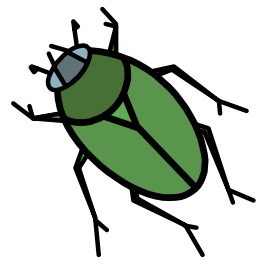
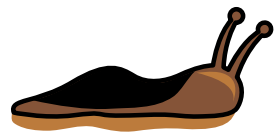
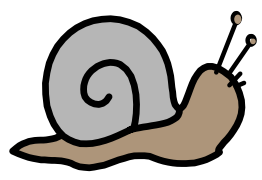
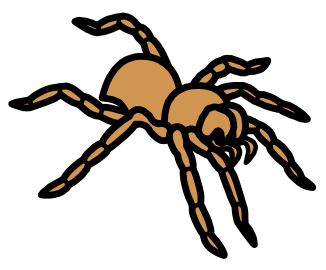
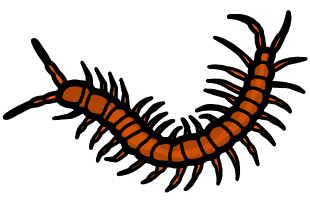

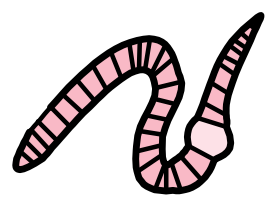
Can you see any wild grasses? Draw some of the different flower heads.

--	--	--



Can you find any insects or minibeasts in the meadow?






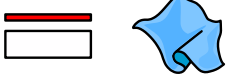






Tick the box when you see the creature.  

					
ant		grasshopper		ladybird	
					
bee		butterfly		beetle	
					
slug		snail		spider	
					
centipede		woodlouse		worm	











# Seed paper




Making seed paper is a great way to use seeds you have collected to share with others. You can gift your seed paper so other people can grow wildflowers and create diverse habitats for wildlife. Don't forget to have a good look at the differences in the seeds!

 <p>You will need...</p>	 <p>scrap paper</p>	 <p>seeds</p>	 <p>lolly sticks</p>
 <p>spoon</p>	 <p>thin fabric</p>	 <p>bulldog clips</p>	 <p>blender</p>
 <p>baking tray</p>	 <p>bowl</p>	 <p>water</p>	 <p>old towels</p>

## Task

- 1**      
 Make a frame using lolly sticks.
-      
 Clip the fabric to the frame.









- 2**     
 Tear the paper into thumb-sized pieces.








3      
Submerge the paper in a bowl of water.






4       
Remove handfuls of soaked paper, leave to one side.

5      
Add handful at a time and blend  
   
to a puree consistency.



















6      
Repeat until all paper  
  
is pureed.





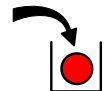




7      
Add the seeds and carefully mix  
  
with a spoon.







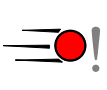










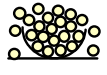

8        .

9      
   .









10       .

11     .   .

12      
   
  .



13       
Carefully remove the bulldog clips and lolly stick frame.

14     
Carefully remove the fabric.



15     
Place the seed paper on a baking tray.

16       
Leave it in a warm, ventilated place to air dry for 2 days.

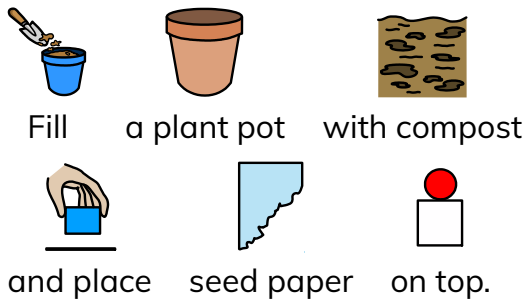


# Planting your seed paper

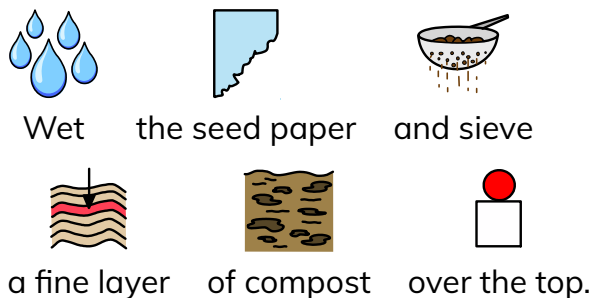
When you give away your seed paper or want to plant it yourself, here's what you need to do.

## Task

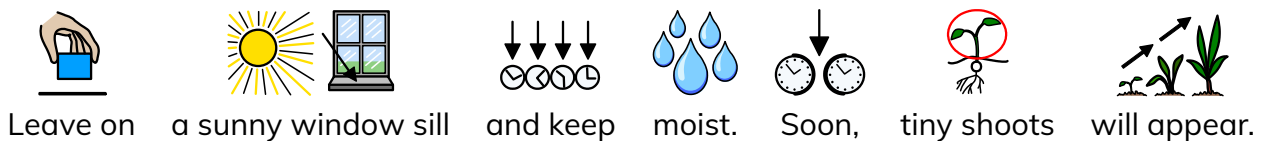
1



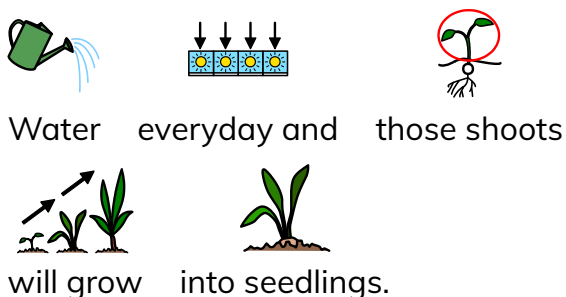
2



3








































4
































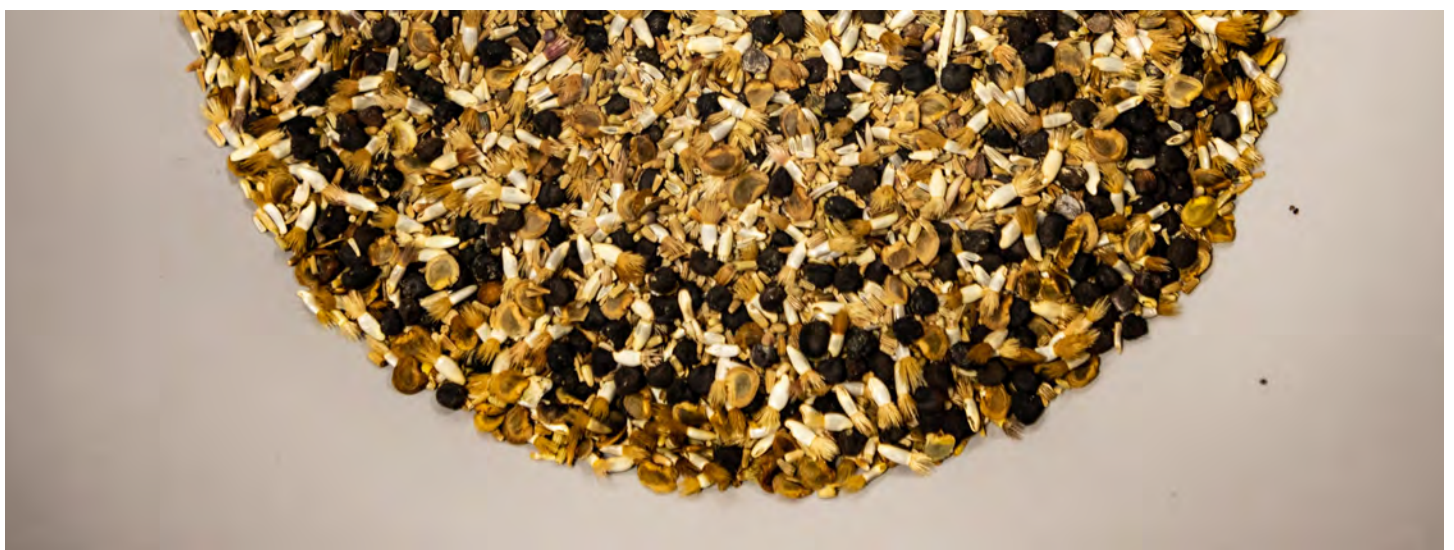
# Wildflower seed bomb

Making seed bombs is a fun messy activity. You can throw your seed bombs to create wildflower patches. Seed bombs also make great gifts, collect old egg boxes to put them in and share them with others!








 You  will need...	 cup	 wildflower  seeds	 soil
	 teaspoon	 clay	 paper plate

Task	Done?
<b>1</b>  Get  a piece  of clay  the size of  an eye ball.	
<b>2</b>  On a  paper plate,  roll your  clay  into a ball.	
<b>3</b>  Flatten  your clay  into a disc.	
<b>4</b>  Put  some soil  into a  cup.	
<b>5</b>  Add  a teaspoon  of wildflower  seeds  to the cup.	
<b>6</b>  Tip  what's  in the cup  onto  the clay  disc.	

Task		Done?
7	       <p>Bring up the edges of the clay disc, to make a round ball.</p>	
8	      <p>Pinch the edges together, to keep the soil inside.</p>	
9	      <p>You can decorate the seed bomb with natural materials.</p>	
10	     <p>Leave your seed bomb to dry completely.</p>	
11	     <p>Throw them in the spring and watch your wildflowers grow!</p>	



# Making a wooden sign

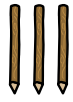




There are lots of ways to create a wooden sign, this is just one idea.















































Make sure you wear protective items like gloves, mask and goggles.

 <p>You will need...</p>	 <p>wooden pallet</p>	 <p>crowbar</p>	 <p>wooden stakes</p>
	 <p>paintbrush</p>	 <p>paint</p>	 <p>sander</p>
	 <p>screws</p>	 <p>screwdriver</p>	 <p>mallet</p>

Task	Done?
<p>1</p>      <p>Break down a wooden pallet, into planks, using a crowbar.</p>	
<p>2</p>      <p>Buy some 'marking out' wooden stakes (not rounded).</p>	
<p>3</p>       <p>If you want, you can trim the planks to be the same size.</p>	
<p>4</p>   <p>Sand down the planks.</p>	





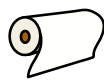




























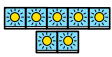




Task		Done?
5	     <p>Paint the names of the wildflowers on the planks.</p>	
6	   <p>Leave the paint to dry.</p>	
7	       <p>Screw the plank to the stake. Leave enough space at the end of stake, as it will go in the ground.</p>	
8	      <p>Hammer the signs into the ground using the mallet.</p>	



Here is an example of another type of sign you can make.

# Pressing flowers

 You  will need...	 heavy  books	 kitchen roll
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Task	Done?
<p>1</p>  Collect  flowers  and grasses  from your  wild flower  space.	
<p>2</p>  Put together <p>2</p>  sheets of  kitchen roll.	
<p>3</p>  Lay down  your flowers  and grasses  on  your sheets  of kitchen roll.	
<p>4</p>  Put  another <p>2</p>  sheets of  kitchen roll  on top.	
<p>5</p>  Place  lots of  heavy  books  on top.	
<p>6</p>  Wait  a week.	
<p>7</p>  Remove  the books,  reveal  your flowers.	

# Clay imprints

This is a great sensory activity, you can make beautiful imprints into clay using natural materials you have collected. Look for anything with an interesting texture or shape that you can press into clay. If you leave them to dry slowly they will last better.






## Extending the activity




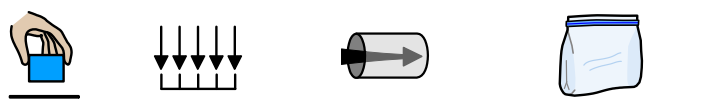


You can mold your clay when it is still wet into different shapes. Why not put a hole in the top so you can put string through and hang it up somewhere?

You could also add some colour once it's dry by painting it.



# Clay imprints

 <p>You will need...</p>	 <p>rolling pin</p>	 <p>sandwich bag</p>	 <p>cardboard</p>	 <p>clay</p>
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Task	Done?
<p>1</p>  <p>Collect flowers and grasses from your wildflower space.</p>	
<p>2</p>  <p>Roll your ball of clay to flatten it on your cardboard.</p>	
<p>3</p>  <p>Place your grasses and flowers on top of clay.</p>	
<p>4</p>  <p>Put everything inside the sandwich bag.</p>	
<p>5</p>  <p>Seal bag. Using rolling pin, roll on top of the bag.</p>	
<p>6</p>  <p>Take out the clay, and leave to dry for at least 3 days.</p>	