

Wildflower Meadows



**Suffolk & Essex
Coast & Heaths
National
Landscape**

Since the 1930's, the UK has lost over 97% of our wildflower meadows. It's vital that we properly care for the meadows we still have.



Management can vary based on the site & species present. In general, meadows need to be cut, usually between July-October after the flowers have had a chance to set seed.

Early spring cuts can help reduce vigorous grasses and thistles.

It's good practice to leave some areas uncut over winter to provide a mixture of habitats.

Cuttings need to be raked off, otherwise they will smother delicate plants and increase nutrients to the soil which isn't good for wildflowers.

Not only are healthy wildflower meadows beautiful to look at, they also support a massive variety of wildlife, small mammals, birds and insects.



Grazing is another management method, read about it and more by scanning the QR Code!

Creating a Wildflower Meadow



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Before creating a wildflower meadow, it is important to consider the site characteristics e.g. soil type, dampness, existing flora etc.



**Natural Regeneration:
Allowing plants to naturally colonise an area is the cheapest and easiest method. However, it requires good sources of seeds nearby to spread from and may take longer to establish.**

**Seeding:
Seeding with locally harvested or native seeds can quickly establish or boost a wildflower meadow. Existing grassland may need to be rotovated or scarified beforehand. Avoid non-native seeds which may contain potentially harmful or invasive species.**



**Green hay:
Green hay can be sourced from a nearby donor site. At the right time, when wildflowers have set seed, the donor site is cut and the cuttings are spread across the new site. This process must be done within 24 hours, but is an excellent way of introducing local wildflowers to a site.**



For more information about establishing wildflower meadows, scan the QR Code!

