

# Making a Wildflower Meadow



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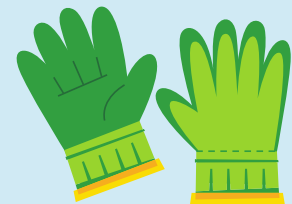
These guides have been produced by Groundwork East as part of East Suffolk Council's Nature at Work programme. Nature at Work aims to respond to the climate and nature emergency by supporting nature to thrive at hundreds of community sites across East Suffolk: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/nature-at-work](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/nature-at-work)

Groundwork East registered charity number: 293141 | [www.groundwork.org.uk/east/](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/east/)

# Tools you will need:

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- Water based spray  
paint/string and pegs
- Gloves
- Garden waste bags
- Garden spades
- Garden forks
- Rakes
- Edging tool \*
- Sacrifier\*
- Rotavator\*(PPE)
- Bucket
- Sand
- Wildflower seeds



*\*Optional but helpful*





## Step 1: Your meadow space

To find the right spot for your meadow, think about:

- **Light** - a meadow needs full sun, away from shading trees, hedges, buildings and fences.
- **Soil** - how well do plants grow around the space?  
Believe it or not, **wildflowers thrive in spaces where less things grow!** There is less competition and low soil fertility encourages plants to flower. Pre-turfed areas are perfect.
- **Size** - to make sure you and local wildlife get the most out of the meadow, make sure it is a minimum of 1.5m in width.

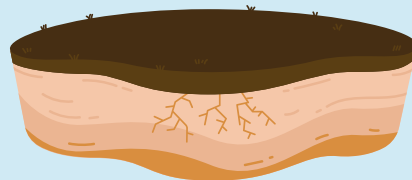


*Tip: avoid planting around nettles, brambles, hogweed or dock*

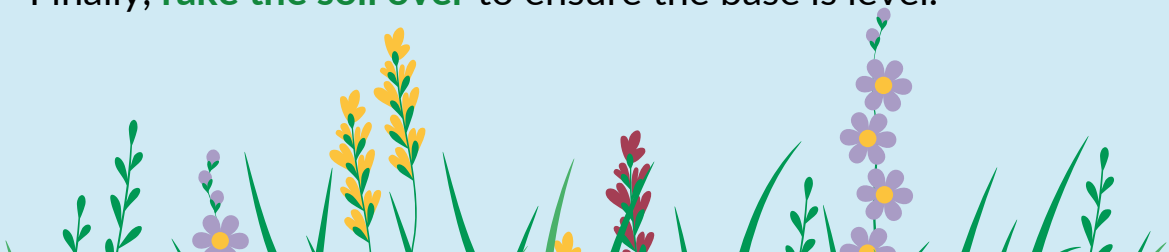


## Step 2: Your meadow base

This step is key to having a successful meadow, it is time to prepare the ground for seed sowing. This is the longest stage but if done correctly it will save you time and energy. We recommend doing this in stages:



- 1** **Mark out your meadow** with spray or string. Get creative with your meadow shape, it doesn't have to be square! *(Make sure the size is appropriate to the amount of seed and people power you have).*
- 2** Along your marked line, use spades or edging tools to **create a small ditch around the meadow**. It is best to stand on the inside edge of the meadow, facing out, when you dig around. This will give you a neat border and keep other plants at bay.
- 3** Use a garden spade, scarifier or rotavator to **remove any existing plants or turf**. You will want bare soil.
- 4** **Place any excess plants or turf into a garden waste bag for removal** (this can become a heavy job so make sure to remove in batches).
- 5** You now need to **till and work the top layer of soil** (10-15cm). With garden forks, make sure there are no large lumps, large stones, sticks or rubbish. Make it as fine as possible. This will support your seeds to access the soil and germinate.
- 6** Finally, **rake the soil over** to ensure the base is level.



## Step 3: Seeding your meadow

Now for the fun part! Sowing your wildflower seeds.

When it comes to seeds, it is quality over quantity. Make sure you source your seeds from a quality supplier to give you the best chance of success. We suggest using [Meadowmania's native general purpose meadow seed mix](#).

Seeds can be sown in Spring (March-April) and Autumn (September-October). It is important not to sow too many seeds. Spare seeds can be saved for re-sowing at a later date. The rule of thumb is 1.5g of seeds per m<sup>2</sup>.

- 1 In a bucket or container, **mix the wildflower seeds with a little sand**. For every handful, you should have around 5-10 seeds.
- 2 Next, take handfuls of the sand and seed mix and **evenly sprinkle throughout your meadow bed**. The sand will allow you to see patches and gaps, be generous with the edges
- 3 Ready for a dance? Once your seed is spread, **with your feet compress the seeds into the compost** to make sure they don't get eaten, washed or blown away. This also helps with germination, and is good excuse for a dance!
- 4 Once your seeds are set in, you might think they need a drink. However, as we are only sowing our meadow in the spring or autumn **we can rely on the rain to start off our seeds**.

Refer to your care guide to learn more about sustainable watering.



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## Now watch and wait for seedlings...

Refer to your species and after-care guide to see which plants are coming through and how to care for your meadow.

It can take a few years for a meadow to fully establish depending on the plant species. Some plants won't flower until year 2-4 as they spend this time developing leaves and roots.

The key is to be patient and attentive, and let nature do the work...

