

Meadow Species Guide - Understanding Your Meadow Plants



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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

Groundwork East registered charity number: 293141 | www.groundwork.org.uk/east/

Understanding your meadow plants

The key to the sustainability of your meadow is patience

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Every year your meadow will look a little different as the plants develop and flower. **Some plants will flower in year 1 and 2 while some may take 3-4 years to flower.**























This means that you will have exciting new species to discover each summer. By including slower developing plants (biennials and perennials), your meadow will be diverse and last for years to come...

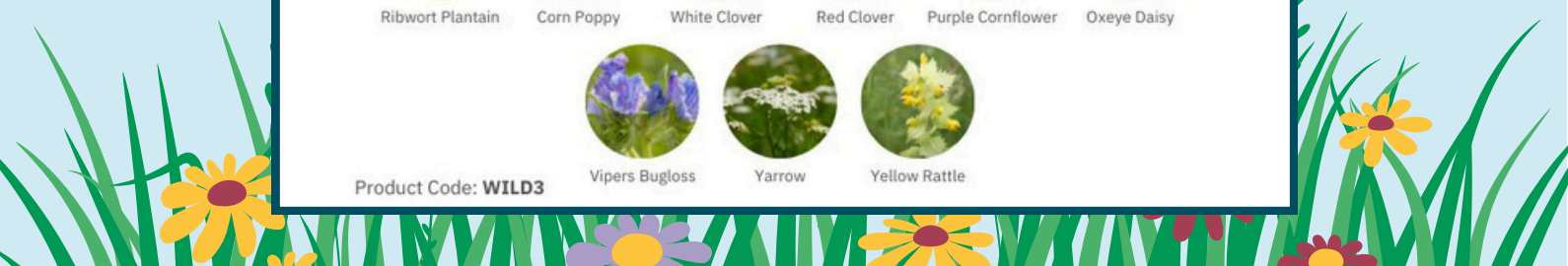
Recommended seed mix

MEADOWMANIA

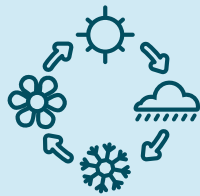
British Native **General Purpose** Wildflower Seed Mix

					
Agrimony	Wild Clary	Lesser Knapweed	Greater Knapweed	Wild Foxglove	Teasel
					
Musk Mallow	Purple Loosestrife	Wild Marjoram	Meadow Cranesbill	Field Scabious	Small Scabious
					
Salad Burnet	Ragged Robin	Saintfoin	Self Heal	Bird's-Foot Trefoil	Kidney Vetch
					
Ribwort Plantain	Corn Poppy	White Clover	Red Clover	Purple Cornflower	Oxeye Daisy
					
Vipers Bugloss					
					
Yarrow					
					
Yellow Rattle					

Product Code: **WILD3**



Annuals



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Annuals are plants that complete their life cycle, from germination to the production of flowers and seeds, within **one year**. These plants will self-seed but may disappear in future years.



Year 1 look out for:



Flowers: Red poppy, Purple cornflower, Corn marigold & Corn chamomile



Leaves: Teasel, Wild foxglove, Oxeye daisy, Viper's bugloss...

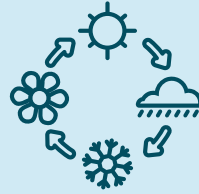
Teasel leaf



Be careful!

Some of the developing plants might look like 'weeds' so make sure to research images of the plants mentioned above and refer to the care guide.

Biennials



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Biennials are plants that complete their life cycle, from germination to the production of flowers and seeds, within **two years**. They put their energy into growing roots and leaves in the first year.



Year 2 look out for:



Flowers: Teasel, Wild foxglove, Oxeye daisy, Viper's bugloss



Leaves: Red clover, Yarrow, Kidney vetch. Meadow cranesbill, Knap weed

Year 2 will look very different!



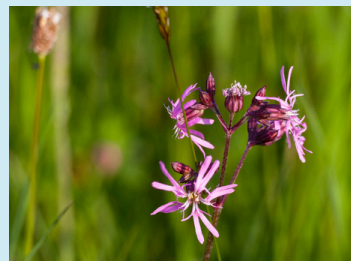
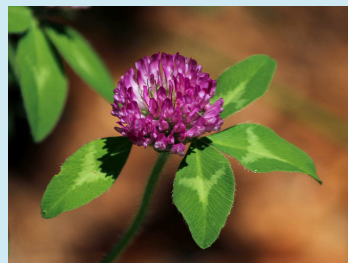
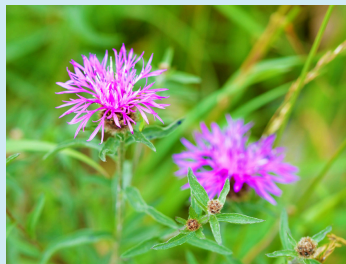
In year 2 there will be lots of the fastest growing plants such as **Oxeye Daisy**, this is normal and will eventually balance out in future years.

Perennials



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A perennial is a plant that continuously develops and **lives for more than 2 years**. They may not flower for the first 2 years.



Year 3 to 4 look out for:



All!



Use your Groundwork and Meadowmania guides to identify and observe your meadow species.

As your meadow gets older, you will have a mix and wide diversity of plants. Perennials will give your meadow a balance and ensure it lasts for years to come

Identification support

If you want to use a tool to help you to identify and record species we recommend the following citizen science applications:

- [iNaturalist](#)
- [iRecord](#)
- [PlantNet](#)
- [Merlin Bird ID](#)
- [eBird](#)



We hope this guide has given you an insight
in how to understand and enjoy your
wildflower meadow

