



How to make a Mini Wildflower Meadow

The easiest way to create a wildflower meadow in your garden is to simply stop mowing your lawn. Execute one cut in Spring, followed by a second and final one in Autumn, and depending on your soil type, a selection of nature's own flowers will soon appear, bringing many beneficial insects too.

This all sounds idyllic, but for some the reality is an unkempt neglected space. A 'tidy' garden is generally considered a safer and more welcoming space so a compromise might be required.



One option is to identify a smaller area of the garden that is often neglected and create a wildflower swathe. In full flower, it will draw admiring eyes and as summer (and its beauty) wanes, the swathe will fade quietly into the background, but importantly, will still be working 100% to support the birds and the bees.

Alternatively, plant up a wildflower pot. The container can be positioned in full view when it's in full flowering glory and be slipped softly from sight when it has passed its best, but still of immense value to wildlife.

No technical seed sowing skill is required, as the mixed seed lends itself to being scattered informally. Once established the pot will look after itself but can be easily manoeuvred to be brought closer to less able gardeners to inspect plant progress and perform any necessary maintenance.



Native Scottish seeds
www.scotiaseeds.co.uk

When to do

Sow seeds in Spring for flowers from late June through September. The pot has potential to flower again the following summer if the flowers self-seed.

What you will need

- Packet wildflower seeds
- A moveable container
- Compost/garden soil
- Watering can



No planting plan required!

For more gardening activity ideas visit www.trellisscotland.org.uk/activities
Need help, advice, or further information? visit our website or call 01738 624348

How to Make a Mini Wildflower Meadow *continued*

How to do

1. Place some crocks—broken clay pots (or pieces of polystyrene packing for a lighter finished pot) in the base of the container as good drainage is important.
2. Fill container with garden soil or a poorer quality compost, avoiding anything fertile or with added plant food. Leave a 2cm gap between the compost and the container rim.
3. Follow seed packet instructions regards amount of seed to use and scatter seed over the compost surface. Cover seeds with a fine layer of compost and water well.
4. Place 'out of sight, but not out of mind', in good daylight, remembering to check for watering . Keep the compost just damp until the seedlings are well established.
5. As the first buds appear, move to a prominent spot for all garden visitors to enjoy.



Wildflower seedlings in final pot (rear) and in plug trays (front)

Top Tips

'Sow' several wildflower pots two weeks apart to extend the season and show of flowers

Sow seeds in plug trays which allows gaps in borders and troughs to be infilled quickly with a quick and colourful, nature friendly mix of flower



Fill gaps in troughs and borders with an injection of colour—and wildlife!

Extending Activities ...

Cut wildflowers and make hand ties with raffia or string. Bring indoors for reminiscence . The vast selection of colours, scent, textures and shape will make for good conversation and tales of adventures across farmers' fields as youngsters.

Once finished flowering, overwinter outdoors in a drier sheltered spot. If the flowers self-seed, the pot may well deliver flowering goods again next summer.

Try seed-bomb making—and throwing!

Interactive and accessible for young and old alike.

See <https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/resource/make-your-own-seed-bombs/>



Colour, shapes, textures and talk