



School Gardening  
Resources

PRIMARY LEVEL

**BORD BIA**  
IRISH FOOD BOARD

# Wildflower Meadows

## For The Garden





<b>Time of Year</b>	All year round.
<b>Aim</b>	Learn how to create and manage a wildflower meadow.
<b>Resources Needed</b>	Native wildflower seeds, bare soil, rake, sand, camera.
<b>Cross Curriculum Relevance</b>	<b>SESE:</b> Living things, exploring/research, recording, observing <b>Maths:</b> Measuring, recording, active learning <b>Literacy:</b> New words, writing, spelling <b>Art:</b> Making flower press, photos <b>Informal Curriculum:</b> Discover Primary Science



## 1 How to create a wildflower meadow - Mowing

- ★ If you leave a piece of grassland alone it will develop into a wildflower meadow. Strategic mowing will keep it tidy and allow different seasonal plants to predominate.
- ★ Traditionally, the meadow is cut for hay in mid June to July with a possible second cut in September - this can be imitated easily in a school.
- ★ For a short flower meadow, cut from March until June, allow to grow over the summer then cut again in autumn.
- ★ Alternatively, don't cut the grass at all and just trim at the beginning of winter or at the end of winter to leave seed heads for the birds.
- ★ If a clean pathway is mowed through the meadow, it allows access and makes it look neater and intentional!
- ★ To maintain low fertility, rake cuttings off and compost (or use as mulch).

### Health & Safety

- ★ Use tools safely.
- ★ Wash hands after garden session.
- ★ Please refer to the worksheet on Health & Safety for detailed information.





## 2 Sowing into bare field

- ★ Wildflowers seeds may be broadcast (scattered).
- ★ Add the seeds to sand for easy broadcasting.
- ★ Rake seeds in to the bare soil.
- ★ Protect seed from birds.
- ★ Native seeds in the soil will predominate.
- ★ If the soil is too rich, grass will predominate anyway.
- ★ Maintenance will still be necessary as above and research will be needed as to which cutting method you will need to use.



## 3 Ideas for research projects

**Maths:** Estimate amount of wildflower seed required for a given area

**SESE** - Have 3 pieces of grassland and cut with the three different cutting regimes and observe the different plant and insect species

**Local Heritage** - Research mowing and grazing practice in your local area

**Art/Communications** - Make a flower press, make a display for the garden using pressed flowers, leaves and grasses, make scarecrows

**Research Words:** **BROADCAST**

### For more information

**Design by Nature**

[www.allgowild.com](http://www.allgowild.com)

**Irish Seed Savers Association**

[www.irishseed savers.ie](http://www.irishseed savers.ie)

**Wildflower identification**

[www.irishwildflowers.ie](http://www.irishwildflowers.ie)

