



Below are some top tips if you are thinking of setting aside an area of land as a wildflower or hay meadow:

Consider how you will manage the meadow – it can't be entirely left to its own devices!

Match your ambition to your resource

Survey the land carefully first to see what is already there. Then decide on a plan of action – talk to us

It is better to restore an existing meadow rather than create a new one! But a new one is much better than none at all.

Use species of British native origin or local provenance if you can, ideally local green hay or seed should be used. Talk to us about possible sources

Establish Hay Rattle (aka Yellow Rattle) early on, it weakens grasses and so helps create space and light for wildflowers

Be patient, plants, particularly perennials, need time to germinate and establish. Some may never occur on your site

Keep pernicious weeds in check. Total eradication may be undesirable for instance a few thistles in a corner can be a good nectar source for many insects

Ideally protect newly planted seeds and plugs from rabbits, slugs, snails and birds

If buying a seed mix choose one that has a blend of wild flowers and grasses

Mow in July /August, when the wildflowers have set seed.

Make hay when the sun shines. An early or late cut one year in 3 or more won't damage the meadow, but may change the abundance of some species over the proceeding years

Be sure to remove any cut vegetation after mowing. If it is left it will contribute to increased nutrient levels and build up a mulch, which may prevent wildflower seed from germinating

Cut vegetation can be baled as Hay or Haylage, composted or left habitat piles. The important thing is to remove them from the meadow

Don't allow Ragwort into animal feed hay. It's poisonous!



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