

Wildflower Seed Growing Instructions

The best time for sowing your seeds is between **September to November**. These seeds should provide wildflowers for years if the conditions are right.

If you have a garden, find a space which is either sunny or only lightly shaded, where the earth is quite well drained. You could lift a patch of grass (about 400 mm square) to make space if necessary

If you don't have a garden, you will need a container such as an old ice cream tub, a flower pot or old bucket or bowl. Make sure there are some holes in the bottom to allow it to drain, about 7mm in size, and fill with earth. The container will need to be kept outside.

Wildflowers don't like fertiliser or anything of that sort.

Make sure any stones and weeds are cleared away and loosen the soil, with a rake or handfork.

Scatter the seeds evenly over the earth and then water the area, using a watering can with a sprinkler, or if you don't have one you could use a plastic pot with some small holes in the bottom to scoop water from a bucket and sprinkle over the seeds. Check that the earth is damp every day by pushing your finger into the earth. It should be firm not sloppy.

Don't drown the seeds but don't let the earth dry out either. If you can collect rainwater in a container and use that, rather than using tap water.

When you start to see shoots appear keep watering them as before until the plants are well established. After that they will look after themselves except in hot weather when some extra watering maybe needed especially in the first year.

If you are using a container you will need to be extra careful to make sure the earth doesn't dry out.

If the plants seem droopy but the earth is wet you may be overwatering them. Give the earth time to dry out a bit more.

Once flowers appear, which should be in late Spring, make sure that when they start to fade you pinch them off. If you don't, you won't get new ones.

Once you have flowers please send your photographs to hpyle@hwpc.org.uk where we will publish these on the website