PGE
LANDSCAPING

CREATING BETTER OUTDOORS: EXPERT TIPS

WILDFLOWER SCHEMES

Successful wildflower schemes depend on getting the specification, establishment and long-term management right from the outset.

A GUIDE FOR DEVELOPERS, SITE MANAGERS & CONTRACTORS

START WITH THE SITE

Every site is different.

So every scheme should be too.
The right approach starts with understanding the site, the specification and the intended outcome.

Your landscape architect can advise on the right specification at planning stage, or PGE can assist with suitable variety selection.

Soil type
influences which species will establish and thrive.

Aspect
affects moisture, temperature growth and species suitability.

Existing vegetation
helps us understand what we're working with.

Existing sward and site conditions
decides the preparation and management approach.

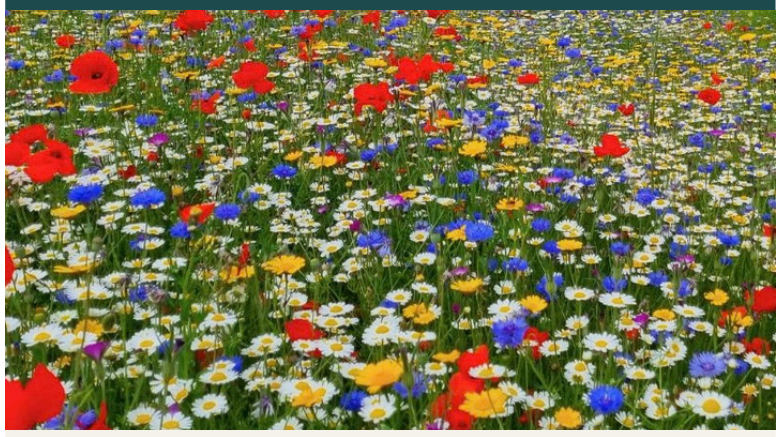
Long Marston attenuation pond with established wildflower

CHOOSE THE RIGHT SPECIES

Annual and perennial mixtures behave differently and need to be matched to the site, the environment and the objectives of the scheme.

Where a mix is specified, we work to the project requirements.
Where advice is required, site conditions and long-term objectives should inform selection.

Annual mixtures



Fast visual impact

Shorter-term display

Different establishment and maintenance needs

Perennial mixtures

Longer-term establishment

Greater emphasis on species balance

Requires considered ongoing management

The right mix depends on the site, environment and long-term objective.

PREPARATION IS CRITICAL

Good ground preparation is one of the biggest factors in success, giving wildflowers the best chance to establish and thrive.

Preparation should be completed at the right stage of the programme, with the area protected from subsequent trafficking or disturbance.

Reduce existing vegetation to minimise competition from grasses and other plants.

Manage weed seed banks to limit future competition.

Address highly fertile soils which can favour grasses over wildflowers.

Create the right seedbed: a fine, firm, weed-free surface to encourage good seed-to-soil contact.

THE FIRST YEAR

Establishment needs active management.

The first year is a crucial period. Perennial meadows may need controlled mowing to reduce competition, removal of cuttings and targeted weed management to give desirable species the best chance to establish.

Establishment requirements should be agreed at the outset, including responsibility for mowing, weed management and removal of arisings.

ESTABLISH
Support germination & early growth.

MONITOR
Check progress & identify any issues.

CONTROL COMPETITION
Mow to reduce competition from fast-growing species.

REMOVE CUTTINGS
Take cuttings off site to reduce nutrients & encourage desirable species.

AUTUMN CUT
A final cut helps manage growth & prepare for the next season.

LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE

Ongoing care keeps the balance right.

A wildflower area is a living system. Without the right management, the balance of species can change over time.

SPRING
Review condition and cut where appropriate.

SUMMER
Monitor species balance and weeds.

LATE SUMMER/ AUTUMN
Cut and collect operations.

ONGOING
Review and adapt management based on how the site develops.

REAL BENEFITS

A successful wildflower scheme delivers more.

When planned, established and maintained correctly, wildflower areas can:

- **Support biodiversity and BNG goals**
- **Provide pollen and nectar sources**
- **Enhance the environment for people**
- **Make better use of lower-value amenity areas**
- **Reduce handover and maintenance risk**

PGE LANDSCAPING

Planning, preparation and establishment of wildflower areas, giving schemes the right foundations from the outset.

PGE GROUND CARE

Specialist ongoing management to help wildflower areas establish, develop and perform over the long term.

One trusted partner. Every stage

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