

BS7M Hedgerow & Light Shade 80/20 Wildflower Meadow

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Prepare the Ground

BS7M Hedgerow & Light Shade Wildflower Meadow seed mixture performs best in low nutrient soils, which haven't been heavily fertilised in the past. For best results sow into bare soil after clearing all existing plants and weeds from the area.

Cultivate the ground to a depth of 10cm to relieve compaction and create a fine level tilth, free from obstructions (to allow for mowing at a later stage). Finish the seedbed by treading or lightly rolling the area, so that it is firm enough to stand on without leaving indentations.

Where weeds have been prevalent, allow a flush of weeds to germinate and remove these before sowing. In areas of high fertility, it may be necessary to remove the topsoil and sow into the subsoil. High nutrient soils encourage weeds and fast growing grasses which may outcompete the wildflowers in this mixture.

For overseeding into existing grassland, use a pure wildflower seed mixture such as BS7P or BSRE.

Sowing

BS7M should be sown between March and November. Spring and autumn provide ideal conditions as moisture and warmth are in good supply.

Distribute seed with a handheld or pedestrian spreader, at the recommended sowing rate of 5g/sqm. Mix the wildflower seeds with an inert carrier (such as sharp sand), at a ratio of four parts sand to one part seed (by weight). This makes it easier to achieve an even distribution and also provides a visual marker, making it easier to see any missed patches and avoid seeding areas twice.

Regularly mix the seed when sowing, as seeds will naturally separate due to variations in size and weight.

Once sown, ensure good 'seed to soil' contact by lightly raking to a depth of 0.5cm or rolling the area.

It is also possible to broadcast, drill or hydroseed this mixture for larger or hard to reach areas. However, broadcast spreading throws heavier seeds further so this may impact the distribution and when drilling, the seed must not be buried deeper than 0.7cm.

Sowing Rate

The sowing rate of 5g/sqm is designed to produce optimum results. Reducing the sowing rate is likely to result in invasion from weed species. Increasing the sowing rate generally leads to reduced diversity as the more aggressive species will outcompete slower growing plants.

Maintenance First Year

BS7M contains many perennial species, which can be slow to establish and are unlikely to flower in the first year. Therefore it is important to control weed and grass growth in year one.

During the first year remove any weeds which grow before they run to seed, either by topping, mowing or by hand for smaller areas. Weed growth is common due to the action of disturbing the ground (rather than being caused by contaminated seed mixtures).

The nurse grasses are the first to grow and require topping or mowing in March and again in May. Remove all clippings to ensure the grass canopy doesn't interfere with the germination and spring growth of the wildflowers.

In September / October cut the area to 10cm using a scythe, strimmer or mower, leaving the cuttings for up to a week before removing. This allows them to dry and shed seeds back into the soil. Mow or graze the re-growth through autumn/ winter and again in early spring if needed.

Second Year

After twelve months the sward should be well established. Simply follow the same cutting pattern (in March and September/October). Avoid cutting from mid spring to summer to ensure best flowering results.

As an ongoing process, observe and remove any weeds which invade the area.

Over time, some species within the mixture may become more dominant due to environmental factors and natural selection. To encourage diversity, simply reduce the number of dominant plants in order to restore the balance. In some areas with more dominant grasses, it may be necessary to overseed occasionally with a pure wildflower mixture such as BS7P or BSRE to ensure the wildflowers remain competitive.



As members of Flora Locale, Boston Seeds follows a strict code of practice to ensure wildflower seed is of UK native origin and is harvested and grown responsibly to aid conservation and help protect native UK wild plants.



In BS7M 86% of the wildflower species included are recognised by the Royal Horticultural Society as supporting many of the 1500 species of pollinating insects across the UK.

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For information on this or any other mixtures in the Boston Seeds range, contact us on 01205 280 069 or email info@bostonseeds.co.uk