

Attenuation Pond Area Planting and Specification.

To be read in conjunction with drawing PL10 Proposed Site Plan

Pond Edge Mix Composition

Pond edge mixture EP1 contains wild flowers and grasses suitable for sowing at the wet margins of ponds, streams and ditches.

Wild Flowers

% Latin name Common name

0.5 Achillea ptarmica Sneezewort
2 Angelica sylvestris Wild Angelica
0.2 Caltha palustris Marsh Marigold
1.5 Centaurea nigra Common Knapweed
1 Eupatorium cannabinum Hemp Agrimony
3 Filipendula ulmaria Meadowsweet
0.5 Geum rivale Water Avenas
0.5 Hypericum tetrapterum Square-stalked St John's Wort
4 Iris pseudacorus Yellow Iris
1 Lotus pedunculatus Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil
0.8 Lycopus europaeus Gypsywort
0.6 Lythrum salicaria Purple Loosestrife
0.1 Mentha aquatica Water Mint
0.1 Pulicaria dysenterica Common Fleabane
2 Ranunculus acris Meadow Buttercup
0.6 Sanguisorba officinalis Great Burnet
0.8 Silene flos-cuculi - (Lychnis flos-cuculi) Ragged Robin
0.5 Succisa pratensis Devil's-bit Scabious
0.3 Vicia cracca Tufted Vetch

20Grasses

% Latin name Common name

10 Agrostis capillaris Common Bent
2 Alopecurus pratensis Meadow Foxtail (w)
2 Anthoxanthum odoratum Sweet Vernal-grass (w)
2 Briza media Quaking Grass (w)
32 Cynosurus cristatus Crested Dogtail
1 Deschampsia cespitosa Tufted Hair-grass (w)
24 Festuca rubra Slender-creeping Red-fescue
1 Hordeum secalinum Meadow Barley (w) 6 Schedonorus pratensis - (Festuca pratensis) Meadow Fescue (w)

80

Sowing Rates

4 g/m

Growing guide

Ground preparation

To prepare a seed bed, first remove weeds using repeated cultivation or a herbicide. Then cultivate to bury the surface vegetation and harrow or rake to produce a medium tilth.

Sowing

Sowings on ground prone to winter flooding are safest either in late summer or in spring once the land has drained.

Most plants need time to grow mature enough to withstand flooding.

The seed must be surface sown and can be applied by machine or broadcast by hand. Do not incorporate or cover the seed.

Aftercare

First year management

In the first year, annual weed growth may be cut back to encourage the development of a good perennial ground cover. Establishment on sites prone to flooding may be patchy and may take several years to fully colonise.

Management once established

The habitat value of pond edge sowings is enhanced if there are a variety of vegetation structures from dense tussock stands to bare and recently colonised mud. Management of these wetland areas should therefore aim to create variation with minimum disturbance to animal populations.

Variation in structure can be achieved by cutting back and removing short sections of vegetation every 2-3 years in rotation. In ditches, cut out sections and /or work from one bank each year. With ponds, remove vegetation as a wedge, like removing a slice of cake. Dense stands of single species (eg yellow iris) may benefit from selective thinning. Vegetation removal causes the least disruption to wildlife when carried out between September and November. Machines and heavy equipment should be used with care on wet sites to avoid damage to soil and vegetation.

Wet grassland which only occasionally or seasonally floods can be managed as meadow or grassland.

In marginal wetland zones the water levels in the soil are never more than 50cm below the surface, but only occasionally submerge the plants growing there. New ponds constructed with liners often have very narrow margins (less than 1 metre wide) unless wider, gently shelving edges are designed in from the outset.

Flowering Wildmeadow mixture Composition

Mixture contains slow growing grasses with a selection of wild flowers that respond well to regular short mowing.

Wild Flowers

Latin name Common name

3.5 Galium verum Lady's Bedstraw
0.5 Leontodon hispidus Rough Hawkbit
1.5 Leucanthemum vulgare Oxeye Daisy
2 Lotus corniculatus Bird's-foot Trefoil
4 Primula veris Cowslip
3 Prunella vulgaris Selfheal

2 Ranunculus acris Meadow Buttercup
2 Rumex acetosa Common Sorrel
1.5 Trifolium pratense Wild Red Clover

20

Grasses

Latin name Common name

8 Agrostis capillaris Common Bent
40 Cynosurus cristatus Crested Dogstail
28 Festuca rubra Slender-creeping Red-fescue
4 Phleum bertolonii Smaller Cat's-tail

80

Sowing Rates

4g/m2Growing guide

Ground preparation

To prepare a seed bed first remove weeds using repeated cultivation or a herbicide. Then plough or dig to bury the surface vegetation, harrow or rake to produce a medium tilth, and roll, or tread, to produce a level firm surface.

Sowing

Seed is best sown in the autumn or spring but can be sown at other times of the year if there is sufficient warmth and moisture. The seed must be surface sown and can be applied by machine or broadcast by hand. Do not incorporate or cover the seed, but firm in with a roll, or by treading, to give good soil/seed contact.

Aftercare

First year management

Most of the sown species are perennial and will be slow to germinate and grow. This and the low sowing rate means that ground cover will take longer to develop as compared with conventional lawn sowings. The grass sward may take 12-18 months to knit together as turf.

There will often be a flush of annual weeds from the soil in the first growing season. This weed growth is easily controlled by topping or mowing.

Management once established

Mow regularly as a lawn but not too short (25-40mm).

To permit flowering mowing can be relaxed from late June. Cut again when the sward gets untidy (after 4-8 weeks). Mowing may be suspended earlier in the year to allow cowslips to flower. Heavy quantities of cuttings should be collected and removed from site.