How to use the advice pages





What type of grassland do you have?

Use the meadow plants <u>identification guide</u> to find out if any indicator flowers and grasses are present in your grassland and then see the <u>calcareous</u>, <u>neutral</u> and <u>acid</u> grassland descriptions to find out more. Your grassland may also be good for <u>waxcap fungi</u>.

Is your grassland species-rich?

If you have some of the indicator plants and are interested in management follow the yes arrow, and if there aren't any or very few follow the no arrow to find out more on how to restore the wildflowers.



<u>Is my land suitable for restoring or recreating a meadow?</u>

It doesn't matter whether you wish to convert land that is your garden, an orchard, a grassy field or arable land, there are some checks that you should do to find out how suitable it is for introducing wildflowers. If the <u>nutrient levels</u> are low then follow the yes arrow, but if they are high, particularly phosphorous, then follow the no arrow.

Management is the key to successfully establishing and maintaining a wildflower meadow, and long-term planning should always be undertaken before any seed is introduced. Use the <u>restoration checklist</u> to help with your planning.

How can I manage my grassland?

Find out about all sorts of different management issues for grassland, including general grassland management, managing problem plants, creating ponds in grasslands, and wildlife specific management for plants, butterflies, birds, bees and other wildlife.

How can I restore or recreate a meadow?

There are four common methods of restoring or recreating a wildflower meadow: - natural regeneration - best if the area you wish to restore is adjacent to a species-rich grassland

using <u>green hay</u> - best if sites lie within close proximity (within an hour's drive) using <u>brush-harvested seed</u> - is best if it is available and from a local site using a <u>wildflower mix</u> - good in situations where none of the others are available or wildflowers tolerant of higher nutrient levels are required.

Try to <u>keep the wild in wildflower</u> by making sure that whichever seed source used is as local to the site as possible.

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Yes

Can you reduce the nutrient levels?

Find out ways to reduce soil nutrient levels which will help wildflowers to germinate and survive.

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Can you introduce wildflowers that are more tolerant of higher nutrient levels? Some wildflowers can tolerate more fertile soils.

No

Are nutrient levels still very high? It is not always possible to reestablish wildflowers, and they are unlikely to germinate or survive in very high nutrient soil.

Plantlifa







No











