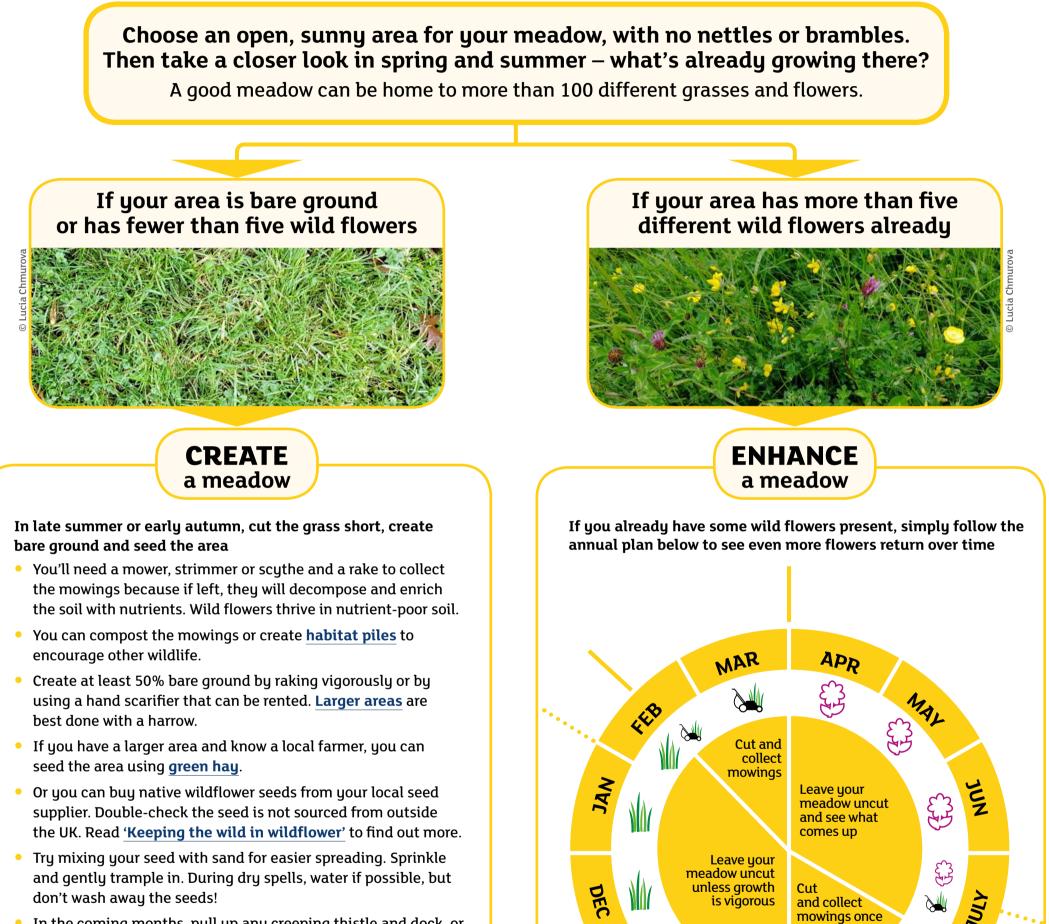
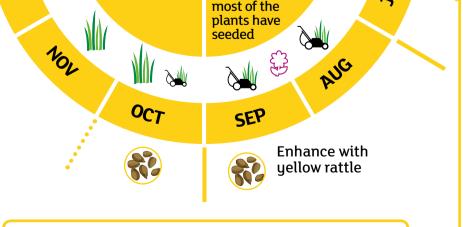
How to make a meadow with native wild flowers

Even if you only have a small area, you can enjoy a meadow full of native wild flowers. Your local wildlife will thank you for it. All you have to do is mow differently...



- In the coming months, pull up any creeping thistle and dock, or
 - cut the flower heads off before they set seed. These can spread fast and smother wild flowers.
- Don't worry if your meadow looks a bit plain in its first year. Many native perennials take a couple of years to establish.

From the second year onwards follow the annual management plan





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Top tips

Vary the cuts

- Skip the spring cut if you can see wild flowers growing
- Avoid heavy machinery if the site is very wet
- Try varying your cutting time from year to year or cut part of the meadow in July and the rest in later months
- If you can, leave mowings lying for a week for all the seeds to drop before removing
- If the grass is growing vigorously over winter, you can do an extra cut and collect if the ground is not too wet
- After a few years, your grass might start growing less vigorously and you may be able to stick with one annual cut only in late summer
- Some areas or margins can be left uncut over the winter these are great for hibernating insects and mammals, and provide seed for birds

Enhance with yellow rattle

In the second year after cutting the meadow, consider sowing yellow rattle seeds. This plant grows off grass roots, reducing vigorous grassy growth and creating more space for wild flowers

Enjoy your meadow...

Why not try a meadow celebration event, <u>seed collecting</u> or <u>scything</u> demonstrations? Or yoga in the meadow, wildflower painting or photography? Anyone can take part in the <u>Great British Wildflower Hunt</u> or the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme.





Wild flowers to encourage in your meadow

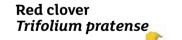


Oxeye daisy Leucanthemum vulgare





Cat's-ear 📏 🦠 Hypochaeris radicata



Common knapweed Centaurea nigra

Bird's-foot trefoil Lotus corniculatus Yarrow Achillea millefolium Yellow rattle Rhinanthus minor