

HOW TO SOW:

Remove any unwanted weeds. Wildflower seeds grow best in poor quality soil.

To prepare a seed bed, first remove weeds using repeated cultivation. Plough or dig to bury the surface vegetation, harrow or rake to produce a medium tilth. Roll, or tread, to produce a firm surface.

Scatter the seeds evenly over the area and then firm in by treading to give good seed soil contact. Do not incorporate or cover the seed.

MANAGEMENT:

Allow the cornfield annuals to grow and flower in the first year after sowing. Cut back in late summer and remove the cuttings. This will reveal the meadow species beneath, which at this stage will be small plants.

The meadow really starts to develop in the second year with the first perennials appearing. The meadow will continue to develop each year and it is important to maintain the meadow by cutting it back to 50mm once the wildflowers have been given the opportunity to flower. The meadow is best cut July/August in the second year and subsequent years to come.

Once you have cut back the meadow leave the 'hay' to dry and shed seed for 1-7 days then remove from the site.

Mow the re-growth through to late autumn/winter and again in late spring if needed.

For further information on wildflower meadows please visit www.highgrovegardens.com

