

BS9M Cornfield Annuals 80/20 Wildflower Meadow

bostonSEEDS

BS9M contains five native British annual wildflower species to create 'instant' colour and can be used to enrich existing grassland or provide additional first year colour to other wildflower meadows.

The species included in this mixture create an attractive display from May to October and are selected for being fast growing, attractive and easy to establish.

BS9M supports bees, butterflies and other pollinators as 100% of the wildflowers included in this mixture are recommended by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) as 'Perfect for Pollinators'.



Contains:



Sowing Rate: 5g/sqm

Mixture Contents:

Common Name	Latin Name	Quantity	Flowers	Height	Type
1 Chamomile, Corn	Anthemis arvensis	3%	Jun - Jul	30 - 50cm	Annual
2 Corn Cockle	Agrostemma githago	9%	May - Aug	50 - 70cm	Annual
3 Cornflower	Centaurea cyanus	4%	Jun - Oct	20 - 80cm	Annual
4 Marigold, Corn	Chrysanthemum segetum	3%	Jun - Oct	30 - 50cm	Annual
5 Poppy, Field	Papaver rhoeas	1%	May - Jul	50 - 70cm	Annual
Bent, Common	Agrostis castellana	4%		50 - 100cm	Grass
Crested Dogstail	Cynosurus cristatus	20%		30 - 60cm	Grass
Fescue, Sheeps	Festuca ovina	16%		15 - 50cm	Grass
Fescue, Slender Creeping Red	Festuca rubra, litoralis	24%		10 - 200cm	Grass
Meadow Grass, Smooth Stalked	Poa pratensis	6.4%		30 - 90cm	Grass
Timothy, Small Leaved	Phleum pratense ssp Bertolinii	9.6%		50 - 100cm	Grass



Wildflower seed in Boston Seeds mixtures is of UK native origin.

The definition of UK native seed provided by Natural England is: *British native-origin seed refers to seed originally collected from wild populations in Great Britain (from sites with no known history of sowing of amenity or agricultural varieties) and either sown directly, or grown on as a field crop to provide further seed. It includes seed collected in 'green hay'. It excludes certified amenity or agricultural varieties of native species.*

Boston Seeds UK native wildflower seed is sourced in two ways:

- 1) Seed collections from the wild which are field sown or sown in modules before being field planted as spaced plants. These are then harvested and cleaned to increase seed germination, vigour and purity.
- 2) Meadow collections are taken with owner permission or under license if the meadow is within a registered area. These seeds are then processed to remove excessive admixture and graded so they can be used in measurable amounts in prescribed mixtures.

Contents of wildflower mixtures will vary according to seed and species availability



Prepare the Ground

BS9M Annual Wildflower Seed Mix performs well in most soil types. 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.

BS9M can be used to overseed into existing grassland, provided the sward comprises only fine leaved grasses and does not include ryegrass, agricultural species or weeds. Cut the grass as short as possible and thoroughly scarify or rake the ground to remove any thatch, moss and other debris from the area.

Sowing

BS9M can be sown in March or November. Spring and autumn provide ideal conditions as moisture and warmth are in good supply. If overseeding into grass, it is best to sow during autumn when grass growth has slowed down.

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. When overseeding this encourages the seeds to fall down to the ground underneath.

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.

This rate also applies when overseeding into grassland as many seeds may fail to germinate due to the increased competition from the existing grasses, and some seeds not reaching the soil surface.

Maintenance First Year

BS9M contains annual species, which are fast to establish and flower. During the first year remove any weeds. Weed growth is common due to the action of disturbing the ground (rather than being caused by contaminated seed mixtures).

After flowering the plants will naturally die back over the winter. Allow the plants to run to seed in autumn then cut the area down using a scythe, strimmer or mower, leaving the cuttings for up to a week before clearing the area. This will allow them to dry and shed seeds back into the soil.

Second Year

Depending on your sowing preference, cultivate the ground and reseed in September or March.

Over several years of reseeding, a rich seed bank will develop and simply disturbing the soil again in early spring will be sufficient to regenerate the flowers each year.

Time of Year

The resulting flowers are highly influenced by the time of sowing. A Spring sowing is likely to favour Corn Marigold and Corn Chamomile, whereas an autumn sowing favours Poppy, Cornflower and Corn Cockle.



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 BS9M 100% 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.