

BS4M Loam & Alluvial 80/20 Wildflower Meadow



BS4M contains twenty three native British wildflowers and grasses typically found in meadows in loam and alluvial soils.

Consisting of 80% grass and 20% wildflowers, BS4M creates a permanent meadow with flowers from May to October. Suitable for creating habitats in moisture retentive, loamy soils and lowland areas with free drainage..

BS4M supports bees, butterflies and other pollinators as 77% of the wildflowers included in this mixture are recommended by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) as 'Perfect for Pollinators'.



Mixture Contents:

Common Name	Latin Name	Quantity	Flowers	Height	Type
1 Bedstraw, Lady's	Galium verum	1%	Jun - Sep	50 - 80cm	Perennial
2 Black Medick	Medicago lupulina	1.2%	May - Oct	15 - 80cm	Annual
3 Burnet, Salad	Sanguisorba minor	2%	Jun - Sep	15 - 50cm	Perennial
4 Buttercup, Meadow	Ranunculus acris	1%	May - Jun	30 - 100cm	Perennial
5 Champion, White	Silene alba	0.8%	May - Oct	50 - 100cm	Perennial
6 Carrot, Wild	Daucus carota	0.8%	Jun - Oct	30 - 100cm	Perennial
7 Clary, Wild	Salvia verbenaca	1%	May - Aug	30 - 40cm	Perennial
8 Cowslip	Primula veris	0.2%	Apr - May	15 - 30cm	Perennial
9 Daisy, Ox-eye	Leucanthemum vulgare	0.6%	May - Sep	20 - 100cm	Perennial
10 Goat's-beard	Tragopogon pratensis	1.4%	Jun - Sep	20 - 60cm	Biennial
11 Hawkbit, Rough	Leontodon hispidus	0.2%	Jun - Oct	15 - 35cm	Perennial
12 Knapweed, Common	Centaurea nigra	1%	Jun - Sep	30 - 80cm	Perennial
13 Knapweed, Greater	Centaurea scabiosa	1.4%	Jun - Sep	50 - 90cm	Perennial
14 Plantain, Hoary	Plantago media	0.4%	May - Sep	15 - 45cm	Perennial
15 Plantain, Ribwort	Plantago lanceolata	0.8%	Apr - Sep	15 - 50cm	Perennial
16 Ragged Robin	Lychnis flos-cuculi	0.4%	May - Aug	30 - 90cm	Perennial
17 Scabious, Field	Knautia arvensis	0.2%	Jul - Sep	30 - 200cm	Perennial
18 Self-heal	Prunella vulgaris	1.2%	Jun - Sep	15 - 30cm	Perennial
19 Sorrel, Common	Rumex acetosa	1.2%	May - Jul	30 - 100cm	Perennial
20 Vetch, Tufted	Vicia cracca	0.8%	Jun - Sep	100 - 150cm	Perennial
21 Vetchling, Meadow	Lathyrus pratensis	0.6%	May - Aug	70 - 120cm	Perennial
22 Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	0.6%	Jun - Oct	20 - 100cm	Perennial
23 Yellow-rattle	Rhinanthus minor	1.2%	Jun - Sep	25 - 50cm	Annual
Bent, Common	Agrostis castellana	4%		50 - 100cm	Grass
Creeping Bent	Agrostis stolonifera	3.2%		40 - 100cm	Grass
Crested Dogstail	Cynosurus cristatus	17.6%		30 - 60cm	Grass
Fescue, Chewings	Festuca rubra, commutata	17.6%		30 - 70cm	Grass
Fescue, Slender Creeping Red	Festuca rubra, litoralis	16%		10 - 20cm	Grass
Meadow Foxtail	Alopecurus pratensis	4%		70 - 110cm	Grass
Meadow Grass, Rough Stalked	Poa trivialis	4%		30 - 60cm	Grass
Meadow Grass, Smooth Stalk	Poa pratensis	5.6%		30 - 90cm	Grass
Timothy, Small Leaved	Phleum pratense ssp Bertolinii	8%		50 - 100cm	Grass

Contains:



Sowing Rate: 5g/sqm

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

BS4M Loam & Alluvial Wildflower Meadow seed mixture performs best in low nutrient soils, which haven't been heavily fertilised in the past. 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.

For overseeding into existing grassland, use a pure wildflower seed mixture such as BS4P or BSRE.

Sowing

BS4M should be sown between March and November. Spring and autumn provide ideal conditions as moisture and warmth are in good supply.

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.

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.

Maintenance First Year

BS4M contains many perennial species, which can be slow to establish and are unlikely to flower in the first year. Therefore it is important to control weed and grass growth in year one.

During the first year remove any weeds which grow before they run to seed, either by topping, mowing or by hand for smaller areas. Weed growth is common due to the action of disturbing the ground (rather than being caused by contaminated seed mixtures).

The nurse grasses are the first to grow and require topping or mowing in March and again in May. Remove all clippings to ensure the grass canopy doesn't interfere with the germination and spring growth of the wildflowers.

In September / October cut the area to 10cm using a scythe, strimmer or mower, leaving the cuttings for up to a week before removing. This allows them to dry and shed seeds back into the soil. Mow or graze the re-growth through autumn/winter and again in early spring if needed.

Second Year

After twelve months the sward should be well established. Simply follow the same cutting pattern (in March and September/October). Avoid cutting from mid spring to summer to ensure best flowering results.

As an ongoing process, observe and remove any weeds which invade the area.

Over time, some species within the mixture may become more dominant due to environmental factors and natural selection. To encourage diversity, simply reduce the number of dominant plants in order to restore the balance. In some areas with more dominant grasses, it may be necessary to overseed occasionally with a pure wildflower mixture such as BS4P or BSRE to ensure the wildflowers remain competitive.



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 BS4M 77% 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.