



7. WEALD NATIVE ORIGIN WILDFLOWER AND GRASS SEED - WNOS (LOCAL PROVENANCE)

This information sheet provides information on choice of seed and further details about the Weald Meadows Partnership (formerly WMI and WMNN) wild seed harvesting operations. Once you have looked at grassland management and natural regeneration you may consider species introduction as the next step. Other information sheets provide details on the enhancement process but seed source should be considered early....

WHY USE WEALD NATIVE ORIGIN WILDFLOWER (LOCAL PROVENANCE) SEED?

Wildflowers growing locally often develop genetic variations due to the specific conditions of the site such as aspect, climate, soils, pH, management regimes and geography. Seed from these plants is therefore ideal to use when creating or enhancing grassland in the same area. Local genetic variations improve disease resistance and may help to prevent extinction when conditions change, so it is vital to retain this genetic character if at all possible.

Natural regeneration is the ideal option. Natural regeneration supplemented by Weald Native Origin Seed (WNOS) is the next best alternative.

Local seed harvesting also helps to support management costs of grasslands and the conservation of special sites. SSSI, SNCI and other important species-rich sites are the best sources of WNOS, especially if creation/enhancement is to be undertaken close to these sites.

The introduction of appropriate locally rare species should only be considered once the grassland is well established and it is recommended that you consult with the Weald Meadows Partnership, County Wildlife Trust and Natural England if you are considering this.

WMP - WEALD NATIVE ORIGIN WILDFLOWER AND GRASS (WNOS) SPECIES

Weald Native Origin Seed has been harvested from the Weald of Kent, East and West Sussex and Surrey since 1996 under the auspices of the Weald Meadows Partnership and is collected, marketed and sold under a national Code of Practice devised by Plantlife and Flora Locale for collectors, growers and suppliers of native flora. The Code protects and promotes a responsible approach to wild plants and good practice for the collection, propagation, marketing and sale of seed. It also helps plant users choose the right plants from the appropriate place for their reintroduction into the natural environment.

The species available are selectively harvested from some of the most species-rich Wealden and Downland meadows within the area, including those designated as SSSIs and SNCIs. Species are harvested sympathetically, generally using a brush harvester, leaving the donor site with a viable hay crop, or alternately a small flower combine. The process only harvests a proportion of the ripe seed and is kind to insects.

The species available in Weald Native Origin Seed mixes are suited to neutral and acid grassland and the requirements of the recipient site are closely matched with the donor site to ensure the best conditions for successful growth.

Most of these species are only available within mixes, not as individual species. As a rule of thumb; most mixes contain approximately 24 species (with and without annuals) and the quantity of each species also varies. The mix will be cleaned and bagged. Single species wildflowers are available including the annual Yellow Rattle.

EXAMPLE MIXTURE FOR NEUTRAL GRASSLAND (ACID AVAILABLE): WEALD NATIVE ORIGIN WILDFLOWER AND GRASS SEED (WNOS)

Species expected in the mix * = important species

<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Bent, Common
<i>Agrostis canina</i>	Bent, Velvet
<i>Cynosurus cristatus*</i>	Crested Dog's-tail
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Fescue, Red
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Foxtail, Meadow
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Meadow-grass, Rough
<i>Briza media*</i>	Quaking Grass
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum*</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Sedge, Glaucous
<i>Carex hirta</i>	Sedge, Hairy
<i>Carex ovalis</i>	Sedge, Oval
<i>Luzula campestris*</i>	Wood-rush, Field
<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum*</i>	Adder's-tongue Fern
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony
<i>Stachys officinalis*</i>	Betony
<i>Lotus corniculatus*</i>	Bird's-foot-trefoil, Common
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Bird's-foot-trefoil, Greater
<i>Ajuga reptans*</i>	Bugle
<i>Pimpinella saxifrage*</i>	Burnet Saxifrage
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Buttercup, Meadow
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear, Common
<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	Centaury, Common
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Clover, Red
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Dead Nettle, Red
<i>Genista tinctoria*</i>	Dyers Greenweed
<i>Euphrasia nemorosa</i>	Eyebright, Common
<i>Linum catharticum *</i>	Flax, Fairy
<i>Tragopogon pratensis*</i>	Goat's – beard
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Hawkbit, Rough
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Hawk's-beard, Smooth
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Knapweed, Black
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii*</i>	Orchid, Common Spotted
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy
<i>Silaum silaus*</i>	Pepper Saxifrage
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Achillea ptarmica*</i>	Sneezewort
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Sorrel, Common
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Speedwell, Germander
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Stitchwort, Lesser
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil
<i>Listeria ovata*</i>	Twayblade, Common
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Vetch, Common
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Vetch, Tufted
<i>Lathyrus nissolia*</i>	Vetchling, Grass
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Vetchling, Meadow
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Rhinanthus minor*</i>	Yellow Rattle

**WEALD NATIVE ORIGIN WILDFLOWER AND GRASS SEED PRICES - FROM 2016 ON
- CLEANED AND BAGGED SEED PRE ORDERED IN SPRING (for autumn sowing)**

Weald Native Origin Seed (WNOS)	£ per kg	£ per 50g
Wildflower & Grass seed mixture (approx 20/80% mix)	70.00	8.00
Wildflower & Grass seed mixture (approx 30/70% mix - including Yellow Rattle) NB: a range of targeted CS/HLS sp available on request	80.00	9.00
Wildflower - Yellow Rattle (annual)	95.00	13.00
Wildflowers - Bird's - foot Trefoil and Greater Bird's - foot Trefoil	210.00	19.00
Wildflower - Ox-eye Daisy	210.00	19.00
Wildflowers – Red Clover	210.00	19.00
Wildflower - Devil's - bit Scabious	350.00	35.00
Wildflower - Knapweed	175.00	15.00
Wildflowers - Yarrow	160	14.00

Small quantities of wildflower single species such as Agrimony, Betony, Centaury (annual), Dyers Greenweed, Goat-beard, Pignut, Tufted Vetch, Meadow Vetchling and many more are available for purchase, or can be harvested on request.

For summer harvesting of Wholecrop and/or Green Seed material or Chalk grassland please contact WMP below.

Please note the following:

1. All mixes and species are subject to availability and should be ordered **IN SPRING** (for autumn sowing) via Weald Meadows Partnership 07863 081281 or meadows@highwealdlandscapetrust.org
2. Prices do not include VAT, which is applicable.
3. VISA payment, purchase orders and cheques should be made payable to Agrifactors (Southern) Ltd.

Please note with an Agrifactors account, payment should be made within 30 days of invoicing.

OTHER SEED SOURCES

British native seed is the next best choice to Native Origin local provenance seed. Seed should be purchased from reputable companies who keep records of the locality of the origin of the seed and whose collection policies help to avoid characteristics such as prolonged flowering. Please see www.floralocale.org for native suppliers.

Points to bear in mind are:

- avoid the use of improved or modified cultivars e.g. Bird's-foot Trefoil where upright growth and vigour offers a different microclimate to butterflies such as Common Blue and Green Hairstreak, etc;
- avoid off-the-shelf mixes containing regionally non-endemic plants such as Greater Burnet and Dropwort (often in "acid" or "heavy/wet/clay" mixes);
- avoid those mixes with poppies, cornflowers, etc for "early colour" as it is important to keep the sward short and prevent flowering in the first full season.

Contact

For more information about Weald Native Origin Seed, contract seed harvesting, sowing advice - methods and aftercare, please contact WMP:

Dawn Brickwood – E: meadows@highwealdlandscapetrust.org or M: 07863 081281.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Having read through this information sheet, looked at your site, and considered seed supply, you may have other questions or need further advice before you can get started on enhancing your grassland.

Other information sheets in this series (see **5. ENHANCING WILDFLOWER GRASSLANDS IN THE WEALD**) will give further advice.

WMP can help with information and advice and can point you towards other experts and seed suppliers. If you are a farmer considering creating a larger area of grassland, it would be advisable to speak to WMP who will be able to help and also refer you to related government agencies such as Natural England.

WEALD MEADOWS PARTNERSHIP

Formerly known and referred to as the Weald Meadows Initiative/ Nectar Networks, Weald Meadows Partnership aims to enable the traditional management of unimproved meadows and the successful establishment of new species-rich grasslands in the High and Low Weald. Recognising the need for wildflower management and creation to be financially viable, it pro-actively develops and markets added value grassland products.

It is still a public private partnership between the High Weald Landscape Trust, Dawn Brickwood, Agrifactors (Southern) Ltd, meadow owners and managers. It also includes founding partners such as; the High Weald AONB Unit, the former Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) and many more such as RBG Kew.....

AGRIFACTORS

Agrifactors (Southern) Ltd was incorporated in 1970 as an agricultural and horticultural merchant specialising in the supply of grass, clover, forage, fodder, vegetable and flower seeds to farmers, horticulturalists and amenity users in West Kent, East and West Sussex and Surrey. The knowledge built up since 1970, matching varieties and mixtures to soil type, location and specific climatic conditions within their trading area enable it to formulate and mix agricultural and amenity seeds to the user's specific requirements. Its association with the High Weald AONB Unit Weald Meadows and FWAG since 1995 has developed into a worthwhile partnership enabling it to provide a seed source of known local provenance for Environmental Stewardship Schemes within the High Weald. Most of the people involved in the harvesting, drying, cleaning, mixing and despatch of this seed live locally, so that this activity supports the local community.

PLANTS & PLUG SUPPLIER

Colin Reader [Plant Plugs](#)

or Mike Mullis Wildflower Plants (British Weald & Downland provenance) M: 07932 683245

E: mikem.wfp@gmail.com

HIGH WEALD AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

The High Weald AONB is a historic landscape of rolling hills draped with small irregular fields, abundant woods and hedges, scattered farmsteads and sunken lanes. It was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1983 to aid its protection and management. It covers 563 square miles at the heart of South East England. Wildflower grasslands are a valued feature of the High Weald AONB.

Natural England/ DEFRA are also an extended partner of the WMP and may be able to offer help and advice.