

St Alban's going for Bronze in 2024



Creating your own mini meadow in your garden

You can create a meadow patch in your garden as big or as small as you want. This can be an annual meadow with a wonderful flowering display in the summer or a perennial meadow which will give you colour every year.

Whatever you choose the birds, bees, insects, and butterflies will love you for it.

There are 3 main ways to create a meadow lawn in your garden

- Wildflower turf
- Plug plants
- Seeds

Wildflower turf can be used for small areas and is also known as pre grown wildflowers mat; this is easy to lay. Spring or Autumn are the best time to lay the mat, when the flowers growing in the mat are small have no started to grow.



A lawn full of weeds, means that the soil isn't too rich, which will suit having a wildflower meadow made with plugs or seeds.



You can plant **Wildflower plugs** directly into your existing lawn. If your lawn is quite poor, 'weeds' such as clover and self-heal, will become part of your new meadow.

You can plant plugs at any time of the year. However, do not plant if the ground is frozen solid, bone dry or waterlogged.

Your front garden lawn will look lovely as a meadow, and if you plant spring, summer, and autumn bulbs in your grass as well, then wildflower plugs will be ideal. Usually plugs are sold in multipacks.

Using **wildflower seeds** to create a meadow is very cost effective, you can use annual, and/or perennial seeds to make your meadow.

You do not need to improve or feed the soil with compost. Wildflowers always remain more compact and flower more freely on original soils.

Spread the seeds around the lawn so as to cover it equally all over. Make sure no one walks on the area unless you have made a path in between two wildflower sections.



This is what I will be doing to the patch of grass that is in between the Parish Hall and the Vicarage Wall. Wish me luck I will keep you updated on its progress.

No need to mow this year (2024), whilst the seeds settle themselves in – you may not have any growth to mow. You may have to wait a few seasons to reap the benefits of your labours. After all a natural meadow evolves over many years. The interaction between animals, plants and microorganisms takes time to develop.

In 2025 you will cut to about 5cm/2” about 6-8 weeks after the seeds appear and repeat every 2 months through the summer. In 2026 you will cut in mid-April, August and November.

A wildflower lawn may never be a “true” meadow, but if you want to attract bees, increase insect populations, and spend less time mowing the grass, then a wildflower lawn is worth the time and effort you put into it.

Planting a wildflower lawn is a win-win situation! Less work and a better habitat for wildlife. Work with nature instead of against it we all benefit as will your garden.



Join in the **No Mow May** campaign.

No Mow May campaign was started in 2019 by Plantlife to encourage garden owners to put their mower away during May and let wildflowers grow. In the UK we have lost 97 per cent of British wildflower meadows since the 1930s, meaning a vital source of food for pollinators such as bees and butterflies has vanished.

Leaving your grass to grow has huge benefits to the environment and to wildlife. Even grass mown every four weeks will provide plants for pollinators. Less mowing encourages wildflowers to grow in your lawn and this is beneficial to pollinating insects such as hoverflies, bees, and butterflies and provides food for other creatures such as birds and small mammals.

Register now and save our wildlife at www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay

Join us in NO MOW MAY and see how we can benefit wildlife.