

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (BNG) WILDFLOWER TURF

From January 2024, new legislation means all planning permissions (with few exceptions) will need to be maintained and secured for at least 30 years.

Typical suitable sites are as follows:

- Gardens
- Parks
- Private grounds and estates
- Municipal areas
- Schools
- New Builds

This has generated interest from the general public who want a change from a standard lawn turf.

Wildflower turf creates **beautiful** areas, giving changes in colour as each species blooms. The seed mix is good for all areas, **including low growing, shade and water-logged areas.**

Wildflower mixes create a very **diverse habitat** to encourage butterflies, bees, moths, beetles, hoverflies and other insects, and offers much faster establishment than seeding. It provides a **low-cost solution**, especially as it requires low maintenance (usually 1-2 cuts per year) and offers a cheaper option than herbaceous / shrub planting per m2.

Good to know

- Grows best on **poor quality soil**, and requires **no fertilising**, otherwise the grasses will start to out compete flowers.
- Water until well established, which happens very quickly, then it will take care of itself until the September cut.
- Drought tolerant**, and the dense root bed will also help to **prevent weeds.**
- Wildflower works well next to standard lawn turf, offering a **linking tool** to different areas.
- If flowers are looking leggy in June, cut back to knee height. Alternatively, just **one cut in September** is all that is required. Leave the cuttings for approximately 2 weeks, but then ensure that everything is removed and composted.
- It is a good idea to **underplant** with spring flowering bulbs for all year round colour.
- Wildflowers evaporate more water than traditional lawns, which **lowers the surrounding temperature.**
- Established wildflower meadows have a complex root system which **prevent erosion.**
- The deep root system absorbs and stores rainwater, **reducing surface run off** and flood risks.

