

Example Packets



What you will need

- Johnsons Wildflower seeds and seeds with the Perfect for Pollinators icon
- A garden spade or fork
- A rake
- Seed tray and lid
- Compost



Johnsons
GROWING WITH CONFIDENCE SINCE 1820

Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 7QB
www.johnsons-seeds.com

JohnsonsTM
GROWING WITH CONFIDENCE SINCE 1820
A quick guide to

FREE



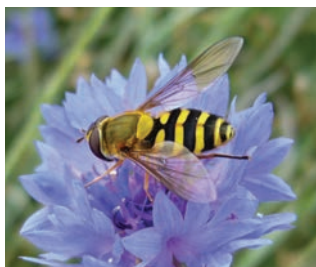
Things To Look Out For



All sorts of bees collecting pollen.



A range of birds gathering insects and seeds.



Agile hoverflies feeding.



Fascinating caterpillars feeding.



Colourful butterflies sipping on nectar.

Hints and Tips

- For many plants, the regular removal of dead flower heads will help to ensure the longest possible flowering season. However leaving them in place will provide seeds to feed birds and hardy plants will have the opportunity to drop seed, providing more flowers the following year.
- Set aside a small area of the lawn and allow the grass to grow. There are often many native plants hiding in the lawn just waiting for the opportunity to flower and set seed.
- Sowing seed in curved rows or a number of parallel rows to create larger drifts will give a more pleasing natural effect.
- Delay tidying up the borders until spring to provide essential cover for overwintering wildlife.
- Annual varieties make a quick and easy filler when sown directly into any gaps in the border.
- When sowing wildflower seeds always be sure they are from native British plants and that they



- are not collected from the wild.
- Leave a pile of old logs to rot at the back of a flowerbed. This will make an excellent shelter and place to hibernate for many different insects.
- Create a small pond if you have the space, this will help bring in lots of species. A tin bath with a



- few plants and an island of rocks at one end works well too.
- Don't turn over your compost heap in the winter months, there may well be lots of creatures hibernating here.
- Take a digital camera around the garden regularly and take pictures of the wildlife and insects that visit. You can refer back to them at your leisure and zoom in if necessary to make identification easier.
- Why not have fun and help a conservation group at the same time by taking part in a wildlife survey. Details of many surveys can easily be found on the Internet.

Why Should I Grow A Wildlife Garden?

Gardens play an important role in the survival of British wildlife, they are a vital resource for a huge number of creatures. A wildlife garden tries to maximise the available resources but it doesn't have to be chaotic and untidy. Our wildlife attracting flowers and our native wildflowers range create the perfect habitat and a valuable source of food for many insect species who in turn feed other insects, birds and small mammals. The numbers of beneficial species are likely to increase and these will then help to naturally control the numbers of pests. Ladybirds and hoverfly larvae, for example, are voracious eaters of aphids. The ripening seed heads of flowers also provide important food for wildlife in the autumn. Native wildflowers are just as beautiful as garden varieties and are often very easy to grow as they have evolved to thrive in the UK climate. Many actually prefer poorer soils and are tolerant of common pests and diseases.

Growing these plants in our gardens encourages greater biodiversity, benefiting both the local ecosystems and the wider environment.



Growing A Wildlife Garden



on until they are large enough to plant out. Before planting out, young plants must be acclimatised to outside conditions by being placed in a sheltered location for a few hours during the day. The time spent outside should gradually be increased over the next two weeks (avoid frosts). They can then be planted out to their final growing position at the spacing indicated on the packet.

Flowering

Annual varieties will flower vigorously the same year they are sown and then die back once their life-cycle is complete. Many half hardy annuals and perennials continue to flower until the weather turns cold in the autumn. Hardy perennial varieties tend to spend the first year bulking up in order to flower the following year and then repeatedly for many years to come.

Please see the back of the seed packets for more specific growing instructions.

Where

Many wildlife attracting flowers and our own native wildflowers, are easily sown directly into a well prepared seed bed in their flowering position. The seed packets indicate where they will thrive, whether it is an open sunny location or dappled shade. A number of wildlife attracting varieties are best sown indoors, into trays or small pots of seed compost, often these plants are less hardy so this method allows them to be nurtured and protected until the weather has warmed up and they are large enough to be planted out.

How

Before sowing outdoors, the soil should be dug over and raked to a fine consistency. Seeds need to be sown thinly, in rows at the distance indicated on the seed packet. It is best to sow in rows so that it is easier to identify the seedlings as they emerge. The seeds should be lightly covered with fine soil and watered gently so they are not disturbed. When sowing indoors, make certain pots and trays are clean and be sure

to use fresh seed compost. To aid germination the trays should be kept at approx. 15-20°C and covered with glass, polythene or a propagator lid to help keep the compost moist. Remove the cover when seedlings appear. Don't forget to use your free Johnsons seeds label to identify the variety sown. To extend the flowering season of annual varieties it is best to make repeat sowings, at 2 or 3 week intervals.

Care

Once seedlings sown outdoors are large enough to handle, they need to be thinned out to the spacing indicated on the packet. Remove the weaker seedlings leaving the stronger ones the room they need to grow on. This also improves air circulation around the seedlings, reducing the chance of disease. Ensure the soil is kept moist (but not wet) and weed free. Seedlings raised indoors should be carefully transplanted to further pots or trays when they're large enough to handle. Always hold seedlings by a leaf so you don't risk crushing the stem. They can then grow

