

### EXAMPLE BUMBLEBEE SEED MIX FOR CALCAREOUS SOILS

The following species are recommended for inclusion in a wildflower mix for lowland meadows and grasslands with chalk/limestone soils (pH>7) or neutral/calcareous soils (pH 6.5 – 7). Using a range of these plants will re-create a diverse meadow to benefit bees, hoverflies, butterflies, beetles and other wildlife. A botanical survey can help identify existing good quality habitat that should be protected. If the site already has some species diversity, consider restoration through management prior to seed addition. Always check that species occur naturally in the local area before including in a seed mix and aim to use native seed of UK origin.

Common Name	Species Name	Flowering Time	Bumblebees Short Tongue	Bumblebees Long Tongue	Solitary Bees	Honey bee	Notes
Betony	<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	June – Sep	●●	●●●	●●	●●	Prefers moist soils
Bird's-foot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	June – Sep	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●	Intolerant of high nitrogen levels. Tolerates regular cutting/grazing
Burnet saxifrage	<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	July – Aug	●	●	●●●	●	Prefers short turf. Should be sown in autumn
Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	July – Sep	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●	Can tolerate more fertile conditions
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>	April – May	●●	●●	●	●	Prefers moist soils and short grass. Should be sown in autumn
Dropwort	<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	May - Aug	●	●	●	●	
Field scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	July – Sep	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●	
Greater knapweed	<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	June – Aug	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●	Associated with taller grasslands
Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	July – Sep	●●●	●●	●●●	●●	
Hoary plantain	<i>Plantago media</i>	May – Aug					
Horseshoe vetch	<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	May – July	●●●	●●●	●●	●	
Kidney vetch	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	June – Sep	●●●	●●●	●●	●	Propagates by seed so can need soil disturbance to persist
Lady's bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>	July – Aug					
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	May – Aug			●●		Prefers moist soils
Oxeye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	May - Sep	●	●	●●	●	Grows in wide range of soil conditions
Rough hawkbit	<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	June – Sep	●	●	●●	●●	Regenerates well after close cutting. Suppressed by taller species
Salad burnet	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	June – Aug					Well drained soil
Small scabious	<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	July – Sep	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●	Prefers short, open grasslands
Viper's bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	June – Aug	●●●	●●●	●●	●●●	Biennial. Prefers dry, sandy banks and verges
Wild carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	June – July	●	●	●●●	●	Biennial. Prefers short grass. Should be sown in autumn
Wild marjoram	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	July – Sep	●●	●●●	●●	●	Reliant on seed for reproduction
Wild thyme	<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>	May – Aug	●●	●●	●●	●●	Well drained soil. Grows as low creeping mat, needs short grass
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	June - Aug	●		●●●	●	



#### Key Bumblebee Plants

- Value to different types of bees: ● Low value ●● Medium value ●●● High value
- Choose species to ensure there are flowers throughout the bumblebee season from March - October
- Sow in March/April or August/September
- Sow a mix of 20% wildflowers and 80% grasses onto bare, weed free soil. Use fine grasses such as crested dog's-tail, sheep's fescue and red fescue that will not compete with the wildflowers. Use 100% wildflowers if over sowing into existing grass.