

EXAMPLE BUMBLEBEE SEED MIX FOR NEUTRAL SOILS

The following species are recommended for inclusion in a wildflower mix for lowland meadows and grasslands with neutral/clay soils (PH 6 – 6.5) or acid/neutral soils (PH 5 – 6). 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
Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	June – July	●	●	●	●	Well drained soil
Autumn hawkbit	<i>Scorzoneroides autumnalis</i>	June – Oct	●	●	●●	●●	Tolerates wet conditions
Betony	<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	June – Sep	●●●	●●●	●●	●●	Calcareous to mildly acidic damp soils
Bird's-foot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	June – Sep	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●	Well drained soil, not too acidic
Burnet saxifrage	<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	July - Aug	●	●	●●●	●	Well drained soil
Cat's-ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Jun - Sep	●	●	●●	●	Well drained soil
Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	July – Sep	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●	Can tolerate more fertile conditions
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	May - June					Tolerates wet conditions
Common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	May – Sep	●●	●●	●●	●	Biennial
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>	Mar – May	●●	●●	●	●	Prefers moist soils and short grass. Sow in autumn
Devil's-bit scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	July – Sep	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●	Tolerates wet conditions. Likes short grazed sites
Field scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	July – Sep	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●	Well drained soil
Lady's bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>	July – Aug					Well drained soil
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	May - Aug					Prefers moist soils
Meadow vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	May – Aug	●●	●●●	●	●	Tolerates wet conditions
Ox-eye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	May – Sep	●	●	●●	●	Can tolerate more fertile conditions
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	April – Aug					Tolerates wet conditions
Rough hawkbit	<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	June – Sep	●	●	●●	●●	Well drained soil
Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	June - Oct	●●	●●	●	●	Prefers short lawn-like conditions, spreads vegetatively
Tufted vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	June – Aug	●●●	●●●	●●	●	Tolerates wet conditions
Wild red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	May – Sep	●●	●●●		●●	Sensitive to high nitrogen levels and over-grazing
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	June – Aug	●		●●●	●	
Yellow rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	May – July	●●	●●	●	●	Annual. Should be sown in autumn



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.