

**Information Sheet on Meadow Enhancement 24.7.18 Green Hay Strewing Demonstration**

**Upper Bryn Farm, Longtown courtesy of Peter Tierney, Farmland Conservation**

**KEY WORDS to research** see [INFORMATION](http://www.herefordshiremeadows.org.uk/useful-information/) pages on [www.herefordshiremeadows.org.uk](http://www.herefordshiremeadows.org.uk) Use the search tool with key words below.

**DONOR SITE** – a good quality meadow close to the field to be enhanced and weed free. Consider soil type, habitat (meadow, wet grassland, pasture) aspect and future management to get best match for your project.

**RECEPTOR SITE** – the field to be enhanced. Weed free and harrowed with tine harrow ( chain harrow not enough) so existing grass sward is set back and good seed / soil contact is possible. Aim for 50 – 60 % bare ground.

**1:3 RATIO** – eg. green hay from 1 acre donor site can be spread over roughly 3 acres of receptor site.

**YELLOW RATTLE –** an annual wildflower that parasitises grasses. A useful tool to reduce grass vigour and prepare conditions for other wildflowers to flourish.Needs to set seed every year to persist and frost to germinate the following spring. If you top your new meadow regularly (eg to control weeds) then the yellow rattle will die out. See NE leaflet on [LINKS](http://www.herefordshiremeadows.org.uk/useful-information/) page.

**GREEN HAY** – hay that has been gently rowed up and baled so that most of the seed is transferred from DONOR to RECEPTOR. As demonstrated by Peter Tierney. And see NE leaflet on [LINKS](http://www.herefordshiremeadows.org.uk/useful-information/) page. [Careful RECEPTOR site preparation](http://www.herefordshiremeadows.org.uk/careful-preparation-of-receptor-field-is-key-to-successful-meadow-enhancement/) and spreading green hay within 3 hours of baling essential for success.

**GREEN SEEDING** **METHOD** – collecting seed in the field using brush harvester or similar and then broadcast by hand, slug pelleter, sand spreader or agricultural drill on RECEPTOR site.

See Keith Datchler, Beech Farm Estate, East Sussex video “Green Seed -Weald Meadows partnership” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKnitDfCmQM&feature=youtu.be>

See Hfds Meadows NEWS post on [Plantlife’s Coronation Meadow at Hurstans](http://www.herefordshiremeadows.org.uk/careful-preparation-of-receptor-field-is-key-to-successful-meadow-enhancement/) – photos of how it was done and what 50 – 60 % bare ground to a shallow depth of ½ to ¾ “ looks like.

**WHOLE CROP METHOD** – harvesting green hay containing seed and spreading the whole crop on RECEPTOR site using muck spreader or straw chopper. See videos by

Rob Havard “How to make a meadow in 5 minutes” using farm machinery [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmbdPnfmFwk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmbdPnfmFwk )

Keith Datchler, “Creating Wildflower meadows = whole crop method” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWJAPWDVoIY>

**NATIVE LOCAL PROVENANCE SEED –** for other sources see the [CONTRACTORS](http://www.herefordshiremeadows.org.uk/contractors/) page of the website. Beware many seed mixtures are bulked out with commercial and non-native cultivars of plants that are not typical of Herefordshire. Some add cornfield annuals which will not persist in a meadow and are not helpful during the establishment phase.  [Flora locale](https://www.floralocale.org/page24182) has a directory of suppliers of native provenance seed.

**WEED CONTROL** – essential before you start your project. Use Herbicide, hand rogueing, [dashel basher](https://www.lanleesupplies.co.uk/Products/0050002b001e/TOSSSLG) blade or [lazy dog tool](https://lazydogtools.co.uk/) to prevent weeds seeding before you spend time and money on enhancement and use precious local provenance seed.

Please ask for [ADVICE](http://www.herefordshiremeadows.org.uk/advice/) for your project and feedback comments and suggestions

[www.herefordshiremeadows.org.uk](http://www.herefordshiremeadows.org.uk)

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