

## Wildflowers that tolerate slightly more fertile grassland

It will not be possible to strip soil nutrients out of every field, especially if the soil has a high phosphorous level and is clay/silt. There are a few wildflowers that can survive in slightly more fertile soils. The key to choosing the right plants depends on the site conditions. Work with nature and look at nearby wildflower meadows, especially if they have similar pH levels and moisture conditions. The [future management](#) of the site is key to establishing the plants effectively.

The creation of bare ground is essential to successful germination of wildflower seedlings. In addition, if the site conditions are suitable, yellow rattle, which is a hemi-parasite on grass, can also be used to reduce the grass load. Yellow rattle seed could be applied a few years before the main restoration is undertaken to reduce the grass load over time, and may make it easier to introduce wildflower seed into open grassland in late summer/autumn, after the yellow rattle has set seed.

Wildflowers listed in the table can cope with higher fertility levels in dry and damp grasslands.

The wildflowers that like dry grassland conditions, and drier banks in wet grassland, include yellow rattle, common/black knapweed, red clover, yellow vetchling, autumn hawkweed and self-heal as they will be better adapted for these areas.

In damp-wet grassland sowing yellow rattle, black knapweed, red clover, meadow vetchling, autumn hawkweed, self-heal, cuckoo-flower and ragged robin may be more successful.

If the grassland has both wet and dry areas, it is recommended that the site is split into these zones and that suitable flowers are sown into each area.

The same preparation and method for [sowing wildflower mixtures](#) should be followed if seed is used. There is a list of suppliers that sell British and Irish origin wildflower and grass seeds that adhere to the Code of Practice on [Flora Locale's](#) website. Growing some of these plants as plugs may help them to establish away from slugs, which can decimate seedlings. The plugs should be planted at the optimum location for the species.



Yellow rattle

Plant	Taxon	Soil dampness	Soil pH	Comments
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Dry-damp	Neutral	
Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Damp	Neutral	
Cuckoo-flower ladies' -smock	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Damp-wet	Neutral	
Common/Black knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Dry-damp	Neutral-calcareous	
Field scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Dry	Neutral-calcareous	
Meadow vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Dry-damp	Neutral	
Autumn hawkweed	<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	Dry-damp	Neutral	
Oxeye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Dry	Neutral-calcareous	
Ragged-robin	<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>	Damp-wet	Neutral-acidic	
Self-heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Dry-damp	Neutral	
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Damp	Neutral	
Bulbous buttercup	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Dry	Neutral	
Yellow rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Dry-damp	Neutral	See advice guide on <a href="#">using yellow rattle in wildflower meadow restoration</a>
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Dry-damp	Neutral	
Tufted vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Dry-damp	Neutral	
Common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Dry-damp	Neutral	



Cuckoo flower



Common knapweed



Field scabious



Ragged robin



Self-heal

