

EXAMPLE BUMBLEBEE SEED MIX FOR DAMP SOILS

The following species are recommended for inclusion in a wildflower mix for lowland meadows and grasslands with damp or seasonally wet soils. Often neutral soils (PH 6 – 6.5). 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	●●●	●●●	●●	●●	
Bird's-foot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	June – Sep	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●	Intolerant of high nitrogen levels. Can be cut regularly
Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	May - July	●●	●●	●●	●	Grows as low creeping mat - needs short grass
Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	July – Sep	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●	Can tolerate more fertile conditions
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	May - June					
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>	Mar - May	●●	●●	●	●	Prefers short grass. Should be sown in autumn
Cuckooflower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	April - June	●	●	●	●	
Devil's-bit scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	July - Sep	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●	Likes short grazed sites
Fleabane	<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Aug – Sep	●●	●●	●●	●●	
Greater bird's-foot trefoil	<i>Lotus pendunculatus</i>	June – Aug	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●	Slight preference for acidic soils
Lady's bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>	July – Aug					
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	May - Aug			●●		
Meadow vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	May – Aug	●●	●●●	●	●	
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	June - Sep	●	●	●	●	Prefers sites where water levels fluctuate
Ox-eye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	May – Sep	●	●	●●	●	Can tolerate more fertile conditions
Pepper saxifrage	<i>Silaum silaus</i>	June – Aug			●	●	Should be sown in autumn
Ragged robin	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	May - Aug	●	●		●	
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	April - Aug					
Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	June - Oct	●●	●●	●	●	Prefers short lawn-like conditions, spreads vegetatively
Tufted vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	June – Aug	●●●	●●●	●●	●	
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.