

AB1

Nectar flower mix

Overview

AB1 Nectar flower mix is ideal for lower-yielding areas with a sunny aspect, facing south or south-southwest. The mix provides areas of flowering plants delivering pollen and nectar from late spring to autumn for pollinators such as bees, butterflies, hoverflies and moths.

AB1 Nectar flower mix is eligible for a payment of £614 per hectare under the Countryside Stewardship Mid and Higher Tier agreements.



Available in 5, 10 and 25kg bags.

AB1 Nectar flower mix in detail

A flowering plant mix containing a mixture of longer-lived flowering species with shorter-lived legumes.

Example AB1 Nectar flower mix

- Red Clover
- Yarrow
- Alsike Clover
- Wild Carrot
- Birdsfoot Trefoil
- Black Medick
- Vetch
- Lucerne

How to sow AB1 Nectar flower mix successfully

- Use in lower-yielding areas with a sunny aspect, facing south or south-southwest
- Avoid planting under overhanging trees, next to tall hedges or on land facing north or east
- Leave access to surrounding crops to allow for management
- Use wide margins and 0.25 - 0.5ha blocks to allow insects to move to safety when fields are being sprayed
- Space five 0.5ha patches evenly within 100ha to meet the food needs of pollinators
- Sow by broadcasting at a rate of 15kg/ha when the soil is warm and moist



Sowing requirements

1. Must be established by sowing a grass-free seed mix containing a minimum of six flower species in blocks or strips between 1st March and 15th September
2. At least two flower species must be the following: common knapweed, musk mallow, oxeye daisy, wild carrot, yarrow, with no single species exceeding 50% of the total seed mix by weight
3. Regular cutting is allowed in the first 12 months to help establish the sown species
4. Established nectar flower mix plots must be managed as follows:
 - 50% of the plot area cut in rotation each year between 15th May and 15th June – the same area must not be cut in successive years
 - The whole plot (100%) cut each year between 15th September and 30th March
5. Always remove or shred cuttings to prevent weed ingress and the development of patches of dead material
6. Do not graze between 15th March and 31st August
7. Keep records of all seed invoices, field operations including associated invoices and grazing activity, plus photographs of the mix once established
8. Nectar plots must be kept until 31st December in year 5 of the agreement



Find out more:

[Higher Tier Manual](#)

[Mid-Tier Manual](#)

[Growing Farmland Wildlife video](#)

Disclaimer:

Information correct at the time of going to press.

Farmers and growers should ensure the mixture formulation meets the criteria of their agreement before sowing