

AB8

Flower-rich margins and plots

Overview

Flower-rich grass margins or plots provide an abundant supply of pollen and nectar throughout the summer for bees, butterflies and hoverflies. They are also an important foraging habitat for farmland birds, such as yellowhammers.

AB8 Flower-rich margins and plots are eligible for a payment of £673 per hectare under the Countryside Stewardship Mid and Higher Tier agreements.

How to sow AB8 Flower-rich margins and plots successfully

- Sow 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 at a rate of 15kg/ha in light/medium soils, increasing to 20kg/ha where soils are heavier
- Top emerging flowers and weeds at least three times in year 1 for spring sowings and twice in year 2 for autumn sowings soil compaction



Available in 5, 10 and 25kg bags.
Germinal seed

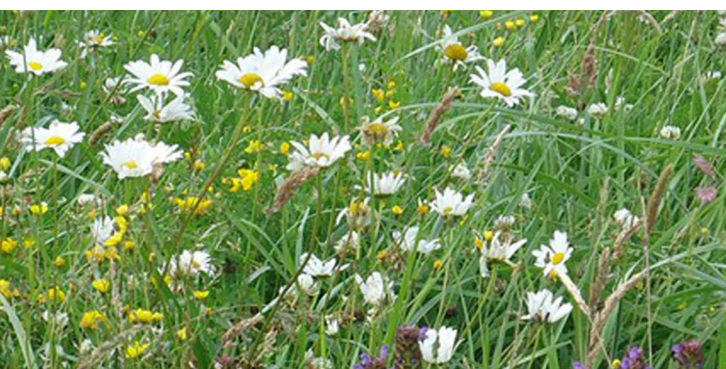


AB8 Flower-rich margins and plots in detail

A flower-rich plant mix for margins and plots containing a mixture of grasses and flowering species.

Example AB8 Flower-rich margins and plots mix

- Red Clover
- Black Medick
- Birdsfoot Trefoil
- Wild Carrot
- Meadow Fescue
- Sheeps Fescue
- Strong creeping Red Fescue
- Tall Fescue
- Cocksfoot
- Timothy
- Plantain
- Cornflower
- Phacelia
- Self-heal
- Burnet
- Lucerne



Find out more:

[Higher Tier Manual](#)

[Mid-Tier Manual](#)

Sowing requirements

1. Must be established in the spring or autumn of year 1 by sowing a seed mix containing a minimum of four flower species between 1st March and 15th September
2. The flower species component must be sown at a minimum seed rate of 2kg/ha with no flower species exceeding 25% of the total by weight.
3. The grass component must not exceed 90% of the total by weight
4. Regular cutting is allowed in the first 12 months to help establish the sown species
5. Established flower-rich margins and plots must be managed as follows:
 - cut to achieve a plant height of 5 - 10cm from 1st April if plant growth is more than 15cm in height before 31st March
 - cut or graze 90% of the margin/plot area each year between 15th August and 31st October to leave a plant height of 10 - 20cm
 - always leave 10% of the area uncut or ungrazed to provide nesting over winter and a safe refuge for pollinators and other insects
6. Always remove or shred cuttings to prevent weed ingress and the development of patches of dead material
7. Keep records of all seed invoices, field operations including associated invoices and grazing activity, plus photographs of the margin or plot
8. Flower-rich margins and plots must be kept until 31st December in year 5 of the agreement

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