

Wildflower Verges

Why sow wildflowers in the verges?

We have lots of verges in the village which are mainly planted with grass. Adding some wildflowers into the grass can make a big difference to butterflies, bees and moths, giving them food and helping them to thrive in the village. It also brightens up the villages and looks more attractive.

Equipment

- Mower
- Rake
- Sand
- Wildflower Seeds – suitable mix would be self-heal, yarrow, ribwort, plantain, oxeye daisy, cowslip, common cats ear, birds foot trefoil, meadow or bulbous buttercup.

How can the Parish Council support?

We are happy come and talk you through how to do it and we can also help you source the seeds and sand. If you don't have a mower and rake, we can help you with that as well.

If you do decide to sow wildflowers on a verge, please let us know!

When to sow seeds

Most meadow seed mixes can be sown in August/September.

Planting the Wildflowers

1. Mowed the grass and give it a good rake. Collect up as much grass as you can, the more you can remove the better. Rake, Rake and Rake again to leave as much bare soil as possible. Wildflowers love soil with low fertility so removing the grass is important to try and reduce the fertility.



2. Mix wildflower seeds with sand as it easier to spread. Take handfuls of the mix and spread it by hand. Afterwards you can walk and stamp over it to bed it into the soil.



3. It's a good idea to keep the grass short while the seeds germinate to an extra mow in October/November and then early spring will help the wildflowers establish. Don't forget to remove the cuttings!

Looking after the wildflowers

The most important way to look after the wildflowers is to make sure that after York City Council have cut the verge you collect up the grass and either add it to your compost heap or put it in your green bin. Reducing the fertility will help to keep the grass down and encourage more flowers.

You can repeat the sowing of seeds each year but hopefully they will start to self-seed so you might not need to do this.