



7. WEALD NATIVE ORIGIN WILDFLOWER AND GRASS SEED - WNOS (LOCAL PROVENANCE SEEDS)

This information sheet provides information on choice of seed and further details about the Weald Meadows Partnership (formerly WMI and WMNN) harvesting operations. Once you have looked at grassland management and natural regeneration you may consider species introduction as the next step. Other information sheets provide details on the enhancement/creation process but seed source should be considered early.....

WHY USE WEALD NATIVE ORIGIN WILDFLOWER (LOCAL PROVENANCE) SEED?

Dawn Brickwood surveys and records data from all harvest sites and has done so for 25 years. Dawn has a background in Agriculture before side stepping into Conservation in 1994 and taking up the post as Weald Meadows Initiative officer back in 1998. This unique background, coupled with agents Agrifactors years of experience and specialism gives us the confidence and experience to offer the most suitable species mixes for use in the Weald and indeed a source of native seed for other parts of the UK.

WNOS has been harvested from the Weald of Kent, East and West Sussex and Surrey since 1996, now under the auspices of the Weald Meadows Partnership (WMP) . Seed is collected, marketed and sold under a national Code of Practice devised by Plantlife and Flora Locale for collectors, growers and suppliers of native flora. The Code protects and promotes a responsible approach to wild plants and good practice for the collection, propagation, marketing and sale of seed. It also helps plant users choose the right plants from the appropriate place for their reintroduction into the natural environment.

All WNOS (grass and wildflower seeds) that we supply are wild harvested from Weald or (Downland) ancient meadows. Many of them from key sites such as Special Sites of Scientific Interest, Local Wildlife Sites, Sites of Nature Conservation Interest or under approved Stewardship Schemes. Species are harvested sympathetically, generally using a brush harvester, leaving the donor site with a viable hay crop or a small flower combine. The process only harvests a proportion of the ripe seed and is kind to insects.

- **This provides an income for ancient meadows - supporting the resource,**
- **It ensures that all seed are of local provenance and native UK stock.**
- **Therefore protecting genetic variation**
- **& increases disease resistance and adaptations to climatic changes.**

WNOS is mixed using a combination of methods/ sites based on your requirements, packed, mixed and distributed locally by Agrifactors upon ordering. You can be confident that you are buying native and local provenance grass and wildflower seed to produce Native (and local provenance) wildflower meadows.

We welcome enquires, or people seeking advice, so please do get in touch.

The introduction of appropriate locally rare species should only be considered once the grassland is well established and it is recommended that you consult with the Weald Meadows Partnership, or County Wildlife Trust and Natural England if you are considering this. The species available in Weald Native Origin Seed mixes are suited to neutral and acid grassland and the requirements of the recipient site are closely matched with the donor site to ensure the best conditions for successful growth.

Most of these species are only available within mixes, not as individual species. As a rule of thumb; most mixes contain approximately 24 species and the quantity of each species also varies. The mix will be cleaned and bagged. Single species wildflowers are available including Yellow Rattle.

EXAMPLE MIXTURE NEUTRAL GRASSLAND:

WEALD NATIVE ORIGIN WILDFLOWER AND GRASS SEED 70/30% (WNOS)

Species expected in the mix * = important species

<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Bent, Common
<i>Agrostis canina</i>	Bent, Velvet
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> *	Crested Dog's-tail
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Fescue, Red
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Foxtail, Meadow
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Meadow-grass, Rough
<i>Briza media</i> *	Quaking Grass
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> *	Sweet Vernal-grass
<i>Carex flacca /hirta / ovalis,</i>	Sedges: Glaucous/Hairy/ Oval
<i>Luzula campestris</i> *	Wood-rush, Field
<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i> *	Adder's-tongue Fern
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony
<i>Stachys officinalis</i> *	Betony
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i> * /pedunculatus	Bird's-foot-trefoil, Common & Greater
<i>Ajuga reptans</i> *	Bugle
<i>Pimpinella saxifrage</i> *	Burnet Saxifrage
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Buttercup, Meadow
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear, Common
<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	Centauray, Common
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Clover, Red
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Dead Nettle, Red
<i>Euphrasia nemorosa</i>	Eyebright, Common
<i>Linum catharticum</i> *	Flax, Fairy
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i> *	Goat's – beard
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Hawkbit, Rough
<i>Crepis capilaris</i>	Hawk's-beard, Smooth
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Knapweed, Black
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i> *	Orchid, Common Spotted
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy
<i>Silaum silaus</i> *	Pepper Saxifrage
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Achillea ptarmica</i> *	Sneezewort
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Sorrel, Common
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Stitchwort, Lesser
<i>Listeria ovata</i> *	Twayblade, Common
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Vetch, Common
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Vetch, Tufted
<i>Lathyrus nissolia</i> *	Vetchling, Grass
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Vetchling, Meadow
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i> *	Yellow Rattle

- CLEANED AND BAGGED SEED PRE ORDERED IN SPRING (for autumn sowing) available on request

Weald Native Origin Seed (WNOS)

Weald Native Origin Seed (WNOS) Mixes and Single Species	Available Per kg	Available Per 0.5kg	Available Per 50g
Wildflower & Grass seed mixture (approx 20/80% mix)			
Wildflower & Grass seed mixture (approx 30/70% mix - including Yellow Rattle)			
Wildflower - Yellow Rattle (annual)			
Wildflowers - Bird's-foot Trefoil and Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil			
Wildflower - Ox-eye Daisy			
Wildflowers – Red Clover			
Wildflower - Devil's-bit Scabious			
Wildflower - Knapweed			
Wildflowers - Yarrow			
Wildflowers - Weald Specialist - see below Small quantities of wildflower single species Weald specialists such as Agrimony, Betony, Centaury (annual), Dyers Greenweed, Goat-beard, Pepper Saxifrage, Pignut, Tufted Vetch, Meadow Vetchling and many more are available for purchase, or can be harvested on request. Chalk grassland seed can also be harvested on request			

Please note the following:

1. All mixes and species are subject to availability and should be ordered IN SPRING (for autumn sowing) via Weald Meadows Partnership 07863 081281 or E: wealdmeadowspartnership@gmail.com
2. All WNOS is subject to VAT, which is applicable and may be based on collected cost (from Heathfield)
3. VISA payment required to confirm orders, payable by phone to Agrifactors (Southern) Ltd.
Please note with an approved Agrifactors account, payment should be made within 30 days of invoicing.

OTHER SEED SOURCES

British native seed is the next best choice to Native Origin local provenance seed. Seed should be purchased from reputable companies who keep records of the locality of the origin of the seed and whose collection policies help to avoid characteristics such as prolonged flowering. Please see flora locale.org for native suppliers.

Points to bear in mind are:

- avoid the use of improved or modified cultivars e.g. Bird's-foot Trefoil where upright growth and vigour offers a different microclimate to butterflies such as Common Blue and Green Hairstreak, etc;
- avoid off-the-shelf mixes containing regionally non-endemic plants such as Greater Burnet and Dropwort (often in "acid" or "heavy/wet/clay" mixes);
- avoid those mixes with poppies, cornflowers, etc for "early colour" as it is important to keep the sward short and prevent flowering in the first full season.

Contact

For more information about Weald Native Origin Seed, contract seed harvesting, sowing advice -methods and aftercare, please contact:

Dawn Brickwood – WMP & S wealdmeadowspartnership@gmail.com or 07863 081281.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Having read through this information sheet, looked at your site, and considered seed supply, you may have other questions or need further advice before you can get started on enhancing or creating your grassland.

Other information sheets in this series will give further advice

Responsible Planting in the HW AONB

2. Managing Grasslands in the Weald

5. ENHANCING WILDFLOWER GRASSLANDS IN THE WEALD

6. CREATING A WILDFLOWER MEADOW IN THE WEALD

WMP can help with information and advice and can point you towards other experts and seed suppliers. If you are a farmer considering creating a larger area of grassland, it would be advisable to speak to WMP who will be able to help and also refer you to related government agencies such as Natural England.

WEALD MEADOWS PARTNERSHIP

Formerly known and referred to as the Weald Meadows Initiative/ Nectar Networks WMNN, Weald Meadows Partnership aims to enable the traditional management of unimproved meadows and the successful establishment of new species-rich grasslands in the High and Low Weald. Recognising the need for wildflower management and creation to be financially viable, it pro-actively develops and markets added value grassland products.

It is a partnership between private grassland specialist, co-ordinator and experienced consultant -Dawn Brickwood, the High Weald Landscape Trust, Agrifactors (Southern) Ltd and includes meadow owners and managers and has extended partners such as RBG Kew. See [weald-meadows-partnership](http://www.weald-meadows-partnership) It also includes founding partners such as; the High Weald AONB Unit, the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) and many more.....

AGRIFACTORS

Agrifactors (Southern) Ltd was incorporated in 1960 as an agricultural and horticultural merchant specialising in the supply of grass, clover, forage, fodder, vegetable and flower seeds to farmers, horticulturalists and amenity users in West Kent, East and West Sussex and Surrey. See <http://www.agrifactors.co.uk/> The knowledge built up since 1960, matching varieties and mixtures to soil type, location and specific climatic conditions within their trading area enable it to formulate and mix agricultural and amenity seeds to the user's specific requirements. Its association with the High Weald AONB Unit Weald Meadows and FWAG since 1995 has developed into a worthwhile partnership enabling it to provide a seed source of known local provenance since this time to all site owners in the Weald.

Many of Agrifactors staff involved in the [harvesting](#) , drying, cleaning, mixing and despatch of this seed live locally, so that this activity supports the local community.

HIGH WEALD AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

The High Weald AONB is a historic landscape of rolling hills draped with small irregular fields, abundant woods and hedges, scattered farmsteads and sunken lanes. It was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1983 to aid its protection and management. It covers 563 square miles at the heart of South East England. Wildflower grasslands are a valued feature of the High Weald AONB. Supports of grants may be available see <http://www.highweald.org/>

Natural England are also an extended partner of the WMP and may be able to offer help and advice in relation to Countryside Stewardship/ELM.

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