

LAWNS

— and —

mini meadows

Big Bee
Challenge



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Wildflower meadows are a great source of food for many bee species, as well as places to shelter and rest.

Over 97% of British meadows have disappeared since the 1930s because they have been turned into farmland or built on. This means we have lost so many flowers that are needed to feed the bees. We can help by providing small areas of wildflowers and long grass.



Here are some ways you can help:



Sow wildflower seeds: scatter a bee-friendly wildflower seed mix over a patch of bare soil or along path edges each spring. Usually a sunny spot works best.

Let the grass grow: bumblebees forage for nectar on lawns where clover, dandelions and other 'weeds' are allowed to flower. Help bees by mowing your lawn less or you could even leave a little patch unmown just for the bees! Some short grass is good as it is used by solitary bees to find nesting spots.



Add in plants and bulbs: Transform a lawn by planting out seedlings of bird's foot trefoil and violets (for short grass) or knapweed and devil's-bit scabious (for long grass). Bulbs like fritillaries can be popped into holes made with a bulb planter and look like they've appeared naturally.



Activity: Make a seed bomb

- Put some compost or garden soil into a bowl and moisten with a bit of water
- Sprinkle in some wildflower seeds, mix together and roll into a ball
- Leave the ball to dry on a sunny windowsill
- Throw onto bare soil somewhere in the garden and, in time, see what pops up (always get the landowner's permission before throwing anywhere else!)



Top tip:

Create a countryside feel by leaving grass to grow long, then cut paths through using a lawnmower.

