

Wildflower seed planting

Overview:

Wildflower meadows are important habitats that provide insects with a diverse source of food and shelter. This is a make and take activity for children and adults encouraging participants to grow their own wild flowers and to see what insects visit their flowers when they bloom. This is a great activity that encourages participants to investigate the natural world.



How it works?

1. Using either an origami technique or a paper plant pot maker (see additional handbook pages for details), create a pot for your plant. Alternatively use a simple biodegradable fibre plant pot.
2. Fill the pot with peat free compost.
3. Choose from a selection of wildflower seeds and plant these in your plant pot.
4. Place your filled pot in a paper bag to take home along with a tag with the name of the flowers you have planted.
5. When the visitors get home they can plant the whole pot in a bigger plant pot or place the plant pot on a plate and water carefully.
6. When the seeds have grown and are flowering, the children and adults can keep a diary of what visits which flowers.

How does this relate to NERC science?

Biodiversity is extremely important for the health of our planet. Environmental scientists understand that in order to maintain a healthy level of biodiversity, suitable habitats need to be created and maintained to increase the number of pollinators within an ecosystem. In turn the increase in pollinators will help increase the biodiversity of the fauna within the ecosystem.

Key take home messages

- Wildflower habitats are important for UK insects and other animals.
- Planting a range of native flowering plants, helps ensure there is plenty of food around for our native pollinators.

Health and safety

Hazard | Precaution

Eating poisonous seeds - Do not include native species that are poisonous.