



Pictorial Meadows 2010

The Pictorial Meadows mixtures are carefully blended seed mixes of native and non-native hardy annuals designed to provide high quality and cost-effective flowering displays. They have been developed following several years of intensive trials by Dr Nigel Dunnett at the University of Sheffield. Unlike other mixes that are available, Pictorial Meadows will flower and provide visual interest over an extremely long period of time (from summer through to late autumn).

They overcome many of the problems that are often associated with creating meadows from seed, such as unreliable germination, short flowering season, untidy appearance and the need to sow on low-fertility soils.

Pictorial Meadows create sumptuous visual effects; they are formulated primarily for their harmonious and impressionistic colour associations rather than attempting to copy the species compositions of meadows that might be found in the wild. They inject drama into large-scale commercial landscapes and create sparkling, complex and intricate pictures at the very smallest of scales. Providing a colourful, wildlife-friendly replacement for mown grass, or more formally in planting beds, or to provide colour between planted shrubs, trees and perennials. The mixtures have been used successfully in urban parks, private gardens, school grounds, play areas, urban highways, verges and roundabouts.

PICTORIAL MEADOWS ANNUAL MIXES

Sow Pictorial Meadows Annual seed mixes in the spring – March, April, May - and they will produce superb colour displays within 8 weeks or so of sowing. Unlike other annual meadow mixtures, Pictorial Meadow mixtures are formulated so that as one species in the mix starts to die back it is replaced by another to give continuous displays from midsummer through to late autumn.

The suggested sowing rate is 2 - 3g per square metre.

STANDARD/CLASSIC ANNUAL MIX *Our Best Seller*



The original Pictorial Meadows mix that produces stunning displays from late June until November, starting out with white, blues, pinks and reds, turning to reds, orange and yellow in the autumn. The mix has been carefully balanced for colour and succession of display. Major components include: Shirley Poppy, Californian Poppy, Cornflower, Fairy Toadflax, Red Flax, Bishop's Flower, Tickseed, Corn Marigold, Black-eyed Susan and Larkspur. General Height: 60cm.

SHORT ANNUAL MIX

A mix suited especially to more restricted or compact situations, but having the same long-flowering characteristics of the standard mixture. Components include Fairy Toadflax, Red Flax, Californian Poppy, Convolvulus minor, Love-in-a-mist, Candytuft, Larkspur, Dwarf Cornflower. General Height: 30-40 cm.



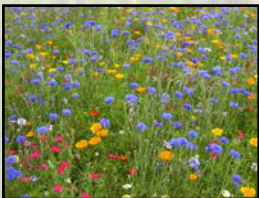
MARMALADE ANNUAL MIX



A wonderful mix of rich tones of yellow, orange and reds. Made from a tasty recipe including Red Flax, Painted Daisy, Black-eyed Susan, Californian Poppy.

PASTEL ANNUAL MIX

A beautiful 'strawberries & cream' mix of white and pink with a scattering of clear blue. Gently blending elements such as Bishops Flower, Cosmos and Shirley Poppy.



CONTRASTING ANNUAL MIX

A vibrant mix with a combination of orange and yellow with contrasting blue components. Throwing together species like Cornflower, Red and Blue Flaxs and Larkspur.

CANDY ANNUAL MIX

Bright sparkling colours including purples, yellows, red, white and blues producing stunning eye-candy effects. Main Components : Purple Tansy, Fairy Toadflax, Poppies and Corn Marigold



VOLCANIC ANNUAL MIX



A fiery mix of reds with some purple and a splash of gold, giving an eruption of flowers including Red Clover, Red Flax, Purple Cornflower and Red Orache.

NATIVE CORNFIELD ANNUAL MIX

A carefully selected mix of pretty native annuals that will flower mainly in July and August. Field Poppy, Cornflower, Corn Marigold, Scentless Mayweed and Corncockle.



PICTORIAL MEADOWS PERENNIAL MIXES

Perennial meadows provide beautiful intricate and naturalistic displays that carry on from year to year, without the need for repeated cultivation. While lacking the overwhelming flower-power of the annual meadows, our perennial meadows share the same characteristics of very long seasons of flowering and harmonious colour displays. Again, we mix native with non-native cultivated species to heighten visual effects. All mixes contain a small amount of appropriate annuals for first-year effect.

The suggested sowing rate is 1g per square metre

PURPLE HAZE PERENNIAL MIX



A colour-themed mixture of predominantly purple and blue, with billows of white for contrast. Main species include Columbine, Greater Knapweed, Field Scabious, Wild Carrot, Hedge Bedstraw, Meadow Clary, Perennial Cornflower, Perennial Flax, Oxe-eye Daisy, Purple Loosetrite, Purple Cornflower, Prairie Aster, Joe Pye Weed.

GOLDEN SUMMER PERENNIAL MIX

Yellows and golds, with hints of orange and purple. Contains, amongst other species, Garden Yarrow, Perennial Black-eyed Susan, Lance-leaf Coreopsis, Lady's Bedstraw, Yellow Oxe-eye, St John's Wort, Greater Knapweed, Meadow Clary.



NATIVE MEADOW PERENNIAL MIX



A selection of very dependable native species that will succeed in a wide range of soils and conditions. Includes: Oxe-eye Daisy, Lady's Bedstraw, Cowslip, Greater Knapweed, Black Knapweed, St John's Wort. Flowering predominantly in June, July and August.

WOODLAND EDGE PERENNIAL MIX

A very free-flowering mixture to sow amongst shrubs, around new tree planting and in woodland edge situations. Includes Hedge Bedstraw, Red Campion, Oxe-eye Daisy and American Wood Aster



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CULTIVATION

PREPARING THE SOIL

- 1) In late autumn/early spring remove any grass and weeds
- 2) Dig (or rotorvate) the plot over to a depth of 20cm in new plots or 10cm in previously planted plots
- 3) Use a rake to create a fine tilth, wait a few weeks and then spray-off any weeds/grass that start to grow again with a systemic weedkiller or remove by hand if you prefer.
- 4) If you wish you can add fertiliser to the soil - this will help growth of our mixes
- 5) Once you are sure that the plot is weed and grass free, you are ready to sow.

SOWING THE SEEDS

Method One - "the quick and simple way" 1) Mix the seeds with sand and scatter evenly over the area. The sand helps you to see where you have sown .2) Gently rake over soil.

Method Two - "the perfectionists way" 1) Divide the area to be sown into metre squares - using sticks and string. Then mark out each square by dribbling sand along the string , then remove the sticks and string. 2) Measure out the seeds needed for one square metre - either 3 grams for annuals or 1 gram for perennials. 3) Pour this seed into a see-through plastic cup and mark the depth on the side of the cup - this saves you having to weigh each time 4) Pour one measure of seed onto a shovel and spread evenly over one of the marked metre squares . Use a stick to tap the seeds off the end of the shovel at a steady rate. 5) Repeat for whole area 6) Gently rake seed and residual sand into the soil. 7) Sit down and have a cup of tea - you deserve it !!

MAINTENANCE

ANNUAL MIXES

At the end of the flowering season the dead stalks should be cut off and removed. The area should then be sprayed to kill any grass or weed growth that has developed during the growing season. The area will then need to be re-cultivated, as above, in time for the following season ,sowing with new seed.

Annual mixes are designed to last for only 1 year but if the area is left uncut you may get some flowers next season from self-sown seed. However, this will not be anything like the original display and the area will become dominated by weed growth.

PERENNIAL MIXES

At the end of the flowering season (generally between late August and mid September) the dead growth should be cut down to between 10 and 15cm height and the stalks raked up and removed.

The dominant species within the perennial mixes will change over time, as some plants will take several years to fully establish. Therefore it will be necessary to adjust the cutting time each year to maximise the displays. Selective weeding of obvious grass or perennial weeds should be undertaken. Ground preparation can also be undertaken in any areas where there may have been poor or no germination.

Perennial mixes from this range are not like wild flower meadows, they need an element of ongoing management and should not be thought of as a low maintenance option. It is important that areas are checked and weeded if necessary, to prevent establishment of perennial weed species.