

Wildflower Planting Guide

Cornflower

Seeds: Like miniature paintbrushes.

Flowers: Bright blue flowers with tiny frilly petals.

Food for: Butterflies, moths, hoverflies, wasps and bees.

How to grow

Sow: March–May or August–October

In: Full sun

Flowering time: June–September

Top tip: Break off the dead flower heads and more flowers will come.

Quirky fact

The flowers are edible and taste a bit like cucumber. When dried out, they keep their colour. They were found in the Ancient Egyptian tomb of Tutankhamun – 3,000 years old and still blue!

Warning: do not eat seeds!

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Corn Poppy

Seeds: Tiny, black or blue/grey, and round.

Flowers: Bright red flowers with four large tissue-paper-thin petals.

Food for: Butterflies, hoverflies and bees.

How to grow

Sow: March–May or August–October

In: Full sun, poor soil

Flowering time: June–September

Top tip: Before sowing, mix the tiny seeds with dry soil or sand for an even spread.



Quirky fact

We eat the seeds in bread and cakes. They can lie dormant in the soil for over 80 years and still flower. In the UK, they are a symbol of WW1 remembrance because they often grew out of the churned-up mud of the battlefields.

Warning: do not eat seeds!

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Corn Chamomile

Seeds: Light brown, flattish and a bit triangular.

Flowers: Daisy-like flowers: white petals and yellow centre.

Food for: Flies, beetles, bees, butterflies.

How to grow

Sow: March–May or August–October

In: Full sun

Flowering time: May–August

Top tip: Prefers chalky or sandy soils. Break off the dead flower heads and more flowers will come.

Quirky fact

Not to be confused with German chamomile, which we make tea from! Farmers brought this to the UK from Europe around 1000 years ago. This means it's known as an 'ancient introduction' plant.

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Corn Marigold

Seeds: Dark brown, flattish and a bit triangular.

Flowers: Bright yellow flowers with small yellow petals and large yellow centre.

Food for: Chamomile shark moth caterpillars! Flies, bees, butterflies and moths.

How to grow

Sow: March–May

In: Full sun, poor soil

Flowering time: June–October

Top tip: Break off the dead flower heads, and more flowers will come.

Quirky fact

Their leaves smell like apple, and the young shoots can be eaten. People used to decorate their houses with these during midsummer celebrations to ward off evil spirits.

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Night Flowering Catchfly

Seeds: Small, brown, roundish and bumpy.

Flowers: Small white flowers (at night), with delicate petals, similar in shape to campions.

Food for: Night-flying moths.

How to grow

Sow: Any time, preferably January–April

In: Full sun

Flowering time: June–August

Top tip: Prefers chalky soils.



Quirky fact

The petals roll up in the day, and open out at night, releasing an enticing scent for pollinators. They are covered in sticky hairs that catch hold of insects as they fly by!

Warning: do not eat seeds!

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Corncockle

Seeds: Dark brown, roundish and spiky.

Flowers: Small flowers with five pink petals that fade to white in the centre.

Food for: Hoverflies, bees.

How to grow

Sow: March–May or August–October

In: Full sun

Flowering time: May–September

Top tip: Break off the dead flower heads, and more flowers will come.



Quirky fact

Corncockle seeds used to get muddled up with wheat and barley seeds, and so farmers found ways to get rid of them. Sadly, this led to their near extinction in Britain. Get these planted to aid their comeback!

Warning: do not eat seeds!

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