

Plug-planting, Allotment and Small-scale Sowing Method

Getting arable wild flowers to grow in your garden or allotment is fairly easy, but we've learnt a few things by trialling different methods, and are able to give a few hints and tips. These guidelines will be added to or modified as more is learnt from other growers about what works and what doesn't.

Seeds germinate much more readily if sown into pots or seed trays, where the environment can be controlled more effectively. Sowing direct into a seed-bed works, but generally fewer seeds germinate and fewer seedlings survive (if you are sowing larger areas see the Broadcast Sowing Method). If you only have a small amount of seed, start the plants off in pots or trays, and then transplant them out once the seedlings have one or two pairs of true leaves, much as you would any other plant.

We had great success using a roughly 50:50 mix of top-soil (from the garden-centre) and peat-free compost, which gave the planting medium a fine texture while still incorporating a good deal of organic matter. The top-soil and compost were thoroughly mixed by hand, and the mixed material used to fill pots close to the brim. The soil/compost mix was gently firmed-down, then thoroughly watered. Seeds were then spread thinly on the surface, and a thin layer of soil/compost added to the top.

Where seeds were sown directly into a bed, the bed was dug-over, and the surface broken down to a fairly fine tilth. Seeds were scattered thinly, and then the ground was lightly raked over to cover the seeds, and very gently firmed down to improve the contact between soil and seed.



Preparing, sowing and raking a plot at an allotment
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