

Flower lawn

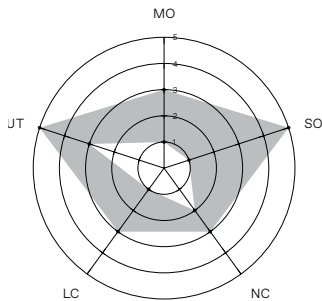
Flower lawns contain more flowering wild plants than a turf lawn.



Definition

Flower lawns are the intermediate between a low-growing utility lawn and a tall-growing, species-rich flower meadow. Flower lawns typically consist of pruning-compatible, regenerative, and mostly native wild grasses and forbs. Flower lawns are also suitable for walking and recreational use as well as flower margins.

Site requirements



- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Moisture (MO) <ul style="list-style-type: none">1 Dry2 Fresh3 Moist4 Wet5 Always/part. inundated | Soil (SO) <ul style="list-style-type: none">1 Raw soil2 Mineral soil (gravelly)3 Medium humus content4 Rich in humus5 Litter-rich humus (duff) | Nutrient content (NC) <ul style="list-style-type: none">1 Very low2 Low3 Moderately low/rich4 Rich5 Very rich |
| Light conditions (LC) <ul style="list-style-type: none">1 Full sun23 Semi-shade45 Shade | Utilization (UT) <ul style="list-style-type: none">1 Passive nature experience23 Active utilization temporarily possible45 Active utilization possible | |

Principles

- Fulfilling these guidelines promotes the biodiversity of this habitat type.
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|-----------------------------|---|
| Seeds and planting material | <ul style="list-style-type: none">100% native and site-appropriate> 20% forbs< 80% grassesAs autochthonous as possibleHigh species diversity0% invasive non-native species |
| Maintenance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Managing as much of the area as possible according to the principles of near-natural maintenanceMow 4 to 6 times a year> 5 cm cutting heightLeave flower islands when cut |
| Utilization | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Extensive use |

Advanced requirements

- By fulfilling these requirements, the biodiversity of this habitat type is additionally promoted.
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|-----------------------------|--|
| Seeds and planting material | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Only wild and local, no cultivated formsUse the potential of regional donor sites |
| Minimum size | <ul style="list-style-type: none">> 10 m² |
| Maintenance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">100% of the area in accordance with the principles of near-natural maintenance |

Biodiversity effect

- If the habitat is planned, realized, and maintained as described, it has the following potential to benefit biodiversity:
- high = ●●●●● low = ● negative = (●)
- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Ecological connectivity | <ul style="list-style-type: none">●● |
| Habitat for wildlife | <ul style="list-style-type: none">●● |
| Habitat for wild plants | <ul style="list-style-type: none">●● |
| Ecological compensation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">●● |



Planning

- Preserve existing ecologically valuable flower lawns
- Create ideal site conditions
- Provide flower lawns especially in semi-shady to sunny locations
- Promote near-natural habitats in the surroundings
- Sow only native and site-appropriate plants
- Use existing local topsoil as substrate whenever possible
- Use flower lawns extensively
- Consider maintenance already during planning

Implementation

- Protect existing flower lawns from construction activities
- After soil preparation, let the soil settle for > 4 weeks
- Manual or mechanical removal of plants that emerge before sowing, ensure weed-free soil
- Use seeds of native and site-appropriate plants
- Sow from April to middle of June, then do not irrigate or fertilize
- Consistent crosswise spreading of the seed, followed by tamping or rolling
- Clearing cuts in the sowing year

Maintenance

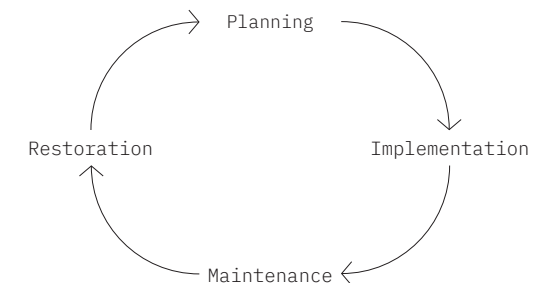
- Mow 4 to 6 times per year, leave over islands or margin strips where possible and appropriate
- Cutting height > 5 cm
- Removal of trimmings
- Remove problematic plants selectively and manually
- Cut 1 or 2 times per year
- Trim edges as needed
- No irrigation, fertilization, or pesticides

Restoration

- Preserve valuable plants
- Reutilize topsoil where possible

Climatic requirements

Sites should be sunny to semi-shady and not too moist/wet. Various soils are possible, from dry to slightly moist, nutrient-poor to moderately nutrient-rich. Yet, the most species-rich flower lawns thrive on meagre, nutrient-poor soils in sunny conditions. Plant communities adapt to local conditions over time. Therefore, do not irrigate in dry phases. Ideal for temperate climate, not too arid or summer dry.



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