

Flower meadow

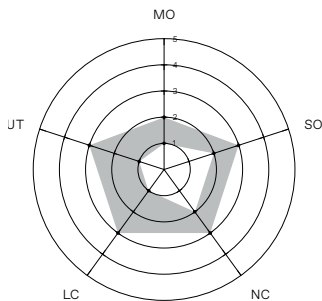


Species-rich flower meadows can harbor over 60 different plant species. The plant diversity and structural diversity provide habitat and food for numerous animal groups.

Definition

Species-rich flower meadows can harbor over 60 different plant species. The plant diversity and structural diversity provide habitat and food for numerous animal groups.

Site requirements



- Moisture (MO)

 - 1 Dry
 - 2 Fresh
 - 3 Moist
 - 4 Wet
 - 5 Always/part. inundated
- Soil (SO)

 - 1 Raw soil
 - 2 Mineral soil (gravelly)
 - 3 Medium humus content
 - 4 Rich in humus
 - 5 Litter-rich humus (duff)
- Nutrient content (NC)

 - 1 Very low
 - 2 Low
 - 3 Moderately low/rich
 - 4 Rich
 - 5 Very rich
- Light conditions (LC)

 - 1 Full sun
 - 2
 - 3 Semi-shade
 - 4
 - 5 Shade
- Utilization (UT)

 - 1 Passive nature experience
 - 2
 - 3 Active utilization temporarily possible
 - 4
 - 5 Active utilization possible

Principles

Fulfilling these guidelines promotes the biodiversity of this habitat type.

- Seeds and planting material

 - 100% native and site-appropriate
 - As autochthonous as possible
 - High species diversity
 - 0% invasive non-native species
- Maintenance

 - Managing as much of the area as possible according to the principles of near-natural maintenance
 - Mow 1 to 3 times a year, ideally in sections
 - > 8 to 10 cm cutting height
 - When mowing the meadow, keep > 10% old grass strips alternating throughout the winter

Advanced requirements

By fulfilling these requirements, the biodiversity of this habitat type is additionally promoted.

- Seeds and planting material

 - Only wild and local, no cultivated forms
 - Utilize autochthonous seeds
 - Use the potential of regional donor sites
- Minimum size

 - > 10 m²
- Structure

 - Contains small-scale structures
- Maintenance

 - 100% of the area in accordance with the principles of near-natural maintenance
 - Different cutting times

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

●●●●●
- Habitat for wildlife

●●●●●
- Habitat for wild plants

●●●●●
- Ecological compensation

●●●●●



Planning

- Preserve existing ecologically valuable flower meadows or enhance existing species-poor flower meadows
- Examine potential for transforming lawns into flower meadows
- Align utilization and design requirements with ecological requirements
- Create ideal site conditions: low in nutrients, dry and sunny, water-permeable soil
- Consider maintenance already during planning and plan near-natural habitats in the surroundings
- Use site-appropriate and native seed and planting material
- Implement seeding and direct planting as good as possible
- Enhance flower meadows with small-scale structures

Implementation

- Protect existing flower meadows from construction activities
- If necessary, improve the soil and let it settle for 3 weeks after preparation
- Implement seeding, planting, and hay transfer ideally and professionally
- Use site-appropriate and native seeds and planting material (regional ecotypes)
- Sowing of seeds according to plant needs
- No irrigation and fertilization after sowing
- Do not neglect during establishment, carry out cleaning cuts in the sowing year
- Realize structural elements

Maintenance

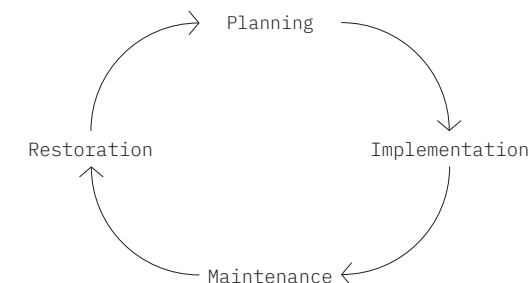
- Mow 1 to 3 times a year (depending on nutrient availability), ideally in sections and keep a minimum of 10% of the area as old grass strips during winter
- Mow with bar mower or scythe
- Removal of hay and trimmings (no mulching)
- Cut 1 or 2 times per year
- Maintain edges as desired, potentially with more frequent cuts
- No irrigation, fertilization, or pesticides

Restoration

- Preserve valuable plants
- If possible, transfer existing sods
- Reutilize topsoil where possible
- Reutilize small-scale structures where possible

Climatic requirements

Possible locations include sunny, meager and dry sites as well as moderately nutrient-rich, loamy and somewhat shadier and more moist areas. Generally — the more nutrient-poor, drier, and sunnier the area, the more diverse the appearance. Do not irrigate in dry phases (gaps create space for young plants). Suitable in a large gradient in climatic conditions.



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