

Herbaceous borders as small-scale structures

Herbaceous borders are important habitats for insects, and they provide food to numerous birds and mammals.

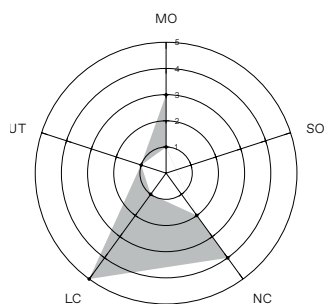


Definition

Herbaceous borders are tall, herbaceous, extensively managed vegetation structures along hedges, watercourses, forest, and meadow edges, roads, walls or fences.

They form transitional areas between different habitats such as flower lawns and shrubs and can serve as important ecological corridors.

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.

Maintenance

If possible, manage the entire area according to the principles of near-natural maintenance

Every two to three years, mow border in sections in September/October

> 10 cm cutting height

Remove invasive alien species

Utilization

No active use

Site

Particularly valuable in sunny and nutrient-poor locations

Along other structures or habitats

Advanced requirements

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

Minimum size

> 50 cm wide, ideally 1 to 3 m

Maintenance

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

●●●●

Habitat for wildlife

●●●●

Habitat for wild plants

●●●●

Ecological compensation

●●●●



Planning

- Assess site suitability first
- Select sufficiently large areas (> 0.5 m wide)
- Select native and site-appropriate seeds and plantings

Implementation

- Depending on the location, create a new herbaceous border by seeding or by conversion of an existing grassy stripe
- Sow and/or plant native and site-appropriate seeds and plantings

Maintenance

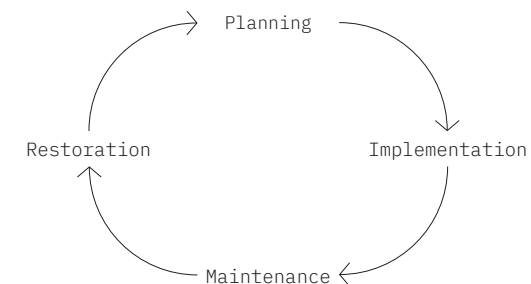
- Mow herbaceous borders in sections
- Cutting height > 10 cm
- Mowing no earlier than September, using a scythe or bar mower
- Remove invasive alien species and unwanted species

Restoration

- Reutilization of valuable perennials where possible

Climatic requirements

No specific requirements. Depending on the local climatic conditions, different plant species will establish and dominate.



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Example from the city of Zürich (Valentin Klaus)



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Bank vole, *Myodes glareolus* (Adobe Stock)



Garlic mustard, *Alliaria petiolata* (Adobe Stock)