

Perennial forb plantings

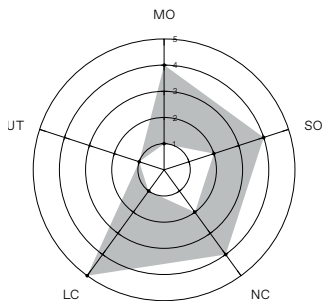
If perennial plantings consist mainly of native wild perennials, a diverse fauna can become established.



Definition

Perennial forb plantings mainly consist of numerous different perennials with some annual or biennial plants plus grasses, ferns, and bulb plants.

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

 - > 80% native and site-appropriate
 - As autochthonous as possible
 - High species diversity
 - 0% invasive alien species
- Structure

 - No nonwovens or foils as a separating layer
- Maintenance

 - Managing as much of the area as possible according to the principles of near-natural maintenance
 - Cut 1 to 2 times a year

Advanced requirements

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

- Seeds and planting material

 - 100% native and site-appropriate
 - Only wild and local, no cultivated forms
- Minimum size

 - > 5 m²
- Structure

 - Contains small-scale structures
- Maintenance

 - 100% of the area in accordance with the principles of near-natural maintenance
 - Allow structural elements to remain over winter

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 perennial forbs if suitable
- Use existing local material for the topsoil layer and select plant species accordingly
- Use native and site-appropriate wild perennials where possible
- Aim for high plant diversity
- Plan flowering spectrum over the entire year
- Choose a planting type with a high structural diversity and attractive appearance
- Consider maintenance already during planning

Implementation

- Obtain perennials from a regional supplier
- Manual removal of weeds before planting
- Planting of perennials in Spring or Fall
- After planting, perennials are watered selectively and as required
- Use mulch material appropriate to the perennial planting
- Integrate spontaneously occurring species where possible and adequate

Maintenance

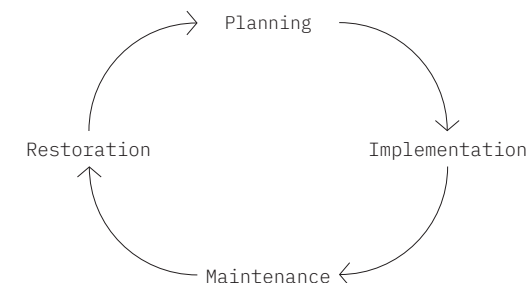
- Manually remove problematic and invasive alien species
- Visual inspection 6 times in the first year, then 3 to 4 times a year
- Mow tall-growing perennial plants and perennial hedges 1 time a year
- Mow meadow-like perennial plants 2 times a year
- Selective watering in exceptional cases
- No fertilization or pesticides
- Leave structural elements and partial surface uncut during winter

Restoration

- Preserve valuable plants
- Reutilize mulch materials and substrates

Climatic requirements

Plant species should be selected according to site conditions. Therefore, no general climatic requirements need to be met. No need for irrigation during dry phases if perennials adopted to these conditions were chosen.



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If perennial plantings consist mainly of native wild perennials, a diverse fauna can establish.





Perennial planting in a private garden in Aarau, Switzerland (Lisa Kaufmann)



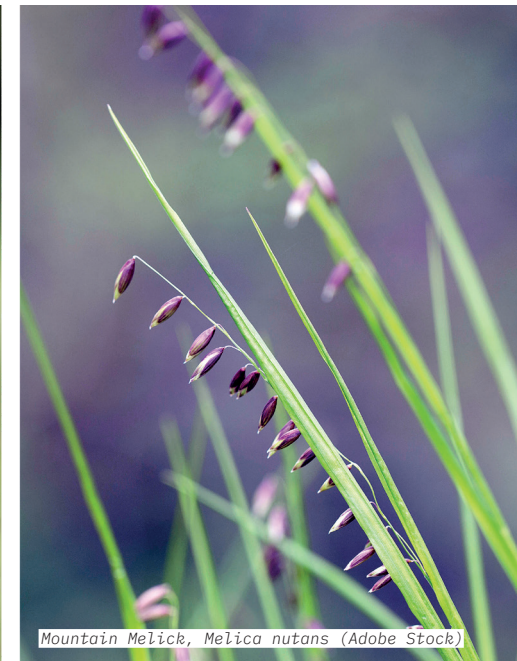
Mixed herbaceous border plants in Thun, Switzerland (Niklaus Götti)



Great masterwort, *Astrantia major* (Adobe Stock)



Quaking Grass, *Briza media* (Adobe Stock)



Mountain Melick, *Melica nutans* (Adobe Stock)