

Ruderal vegetation

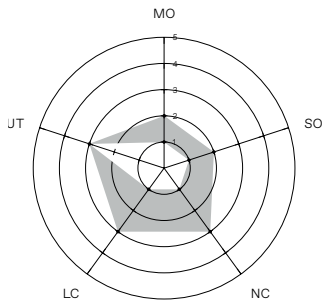
Ruderal vegetation is floristically among the most species-rich open spaces in urban areas.



Definition

Ruderal vegetation consists mainly of wild-growing pioneer and ruderal plants that grow on stony and humus-poor substrates. Typically, ruderal vegetation exhibits a high degree of open ground and a high structural diversity, making it a valuable habitat for numerous native animal and plant species.

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 non-native species
- Substrate

 - > 30cm substrate build-up
- Structure

 - No nonwovens or foils
 - Modeled surface
 - No “gravel garden”
- Maintenance

 - If possible, managing the entire area according to the principles of near-natural maintenance
 - Periodic renewal of sections
 - Management of vegetation 1 time per year
- Utilization

 - Extensive use

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
- Maintenance

 - 100% of the area in accordance with the principles of near-natural maintenance
- Structure

 - Contains small-scale structures

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

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- Habitat for wildlife

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- Habitat for wild plants

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- Ecological compensation

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Planning

- Preserve existing ruderal vegetation
- Do not plan "gravel gardens", in particular do not use nonwoven or foil as a separating layer
- Use substrate layer (> 30 cm) composed of stones of different grain sizes including a fine fraction (< 1 mm)
- To establish ruderal vegetation utilize substrate that is being moved anyways
- Create ideal site conditions: low in nutrients, dry and sunny, well draining
- Model the surface with mounds and enrich it with small-scale structures
- Implement sowing, planting and/or spontaneous greening as good as possible
- Consider maintenance already during planning

Implementation

- Remove > 20 cm topsoil and introduce > 30 cm substrate; do not loosen the subsoil
- Use existing substrate on site or purchase from a local origin
- Model a lively surface and equip with small-scale structures
- Sow and/or plant native and site-appropriate seeds/planting material
- Consider ideal sowing time: March until May; rolling/tapping the seed, do not rake in and water
- Consider ideal planting time: March to April and September to November; plant the plants 1 cm deeper than usual
- Management during establishment: removal of unwanted woody species, problematic plants and invasive alien species

Maintenance

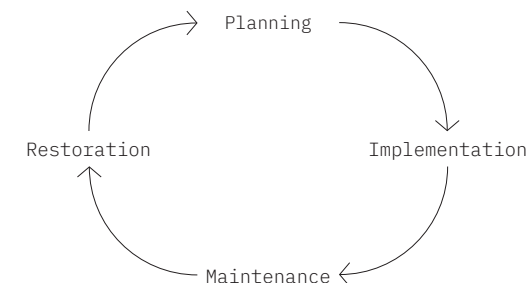
- Regular visual inspection and immediate removal of invasive neophytes
- Visual inspection 1 time per year and removal of woody plants in winter
- Managing the vegetation as of September after plants set seed for rejuvenation
- Only extensive use
- Cut ruderal vegetation as necessary
- Sectional restoration of dry sites every 10 to 15 years if plants overgrow
- Sectional restoration of moist sites only every 5 to 10 years where plants overgrow

Restoration

- Preserve valuable plants
- Reuse gravel
- Reutilize small-scale structures where possible

Climatic requirements

This type is suitable for climates from dry to moist. The more annual precipitation, the denser and taller the vegetation will become. No need for irrigation during dry phases. Might also contain native annual plants in more arid climates.



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