



# Inspiring Meadows

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# Why we need wildflower meadows

- 97% of our lowland wildflower meadows lost since WWII
- Those that remain are small in size and isolated
- Pollinators are worth over £510 million per year
- Many species are experiencing decline

A wildflower meadow is a grassland habitat containing native annual, biennial and perennial flora.



## State of the Market Survey 2015

### Local Authority Parks and Green Spaces Services



- 77% agreed or strongly agreed that reductions in funding resulted in withdrawal of maintenance from some land.
- Managed correctly this is an opportunity to promote biodiversity.
- Decreased bedding, shrub maintenance and frequency of grass cuts.
- 80% make specific provision for promoting biodiversity. Many through planting flower meadows.



*Raise awareness of the benefits of meadows*

*Encourage the creation of them across the country*

## Conference Summary Report

# Inspiring Meadows

A conference on the creation and management of wildflower meadows

7<sup>th</sup> September 2015, Stirling



- 90 attendees
- 13 local authorities
- 20+ other organisations



# Outcomes of the conference

Wildflower meadows provide:

- Multiple benefits
- Few challenges

Benefits of meadows far outweigh the challenges

But... nobody is doing it properly



# The challenges

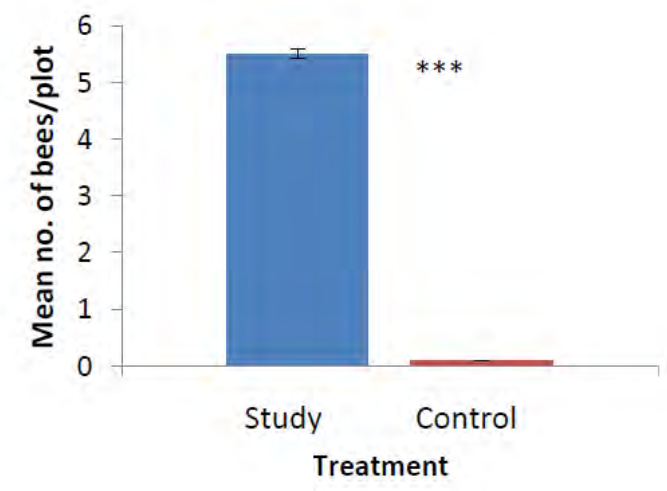
- Failure to germinate
- Knowing what to do when things go wrong
- Dealing with community complaints
- Initial cost



# The benefits of wildflower meadows

- Carbon reduction and sequestration
- Biodiversity
- Health
  
- Long-term cost savings
- Energy production
- Community acceptance
- Community involvement

Land use	Carbon sequestered kg/ha/yr
Grassland	240 (+/- 200)
Forestry	110 (+/- 4)
Arable	Loses 140 (+/- 100)



# Things to consider when planning a meadow

- Your starting point
- Your objective
- Community buy in
- Site preparation needed
- Species you would like to grow
- Management and monitoring
- Advice if things go wrong





Site  
preparation



Year 1 -  
Annuals



Year 2 -  
Biennials and  
perennials



# More work needed...

- Make existing evidence on the benefits easily accessible.
- Identify the key barriers that stop wider creation of meadows across the country.
- Highlight the benefits of meadows to decision makers in public bodies.

*Try it, people get it*



You've heard the pros and cons.

My question to you all is...

What's stopping you from creating meadows?



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or visit <http://www.innerforthlandscape.co.uk/events/cal/93-inner-forth-festival-2015/139-inspiring-meadows>

