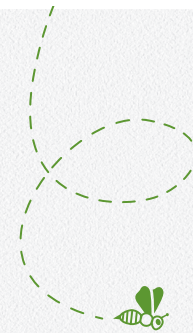


# Pollinator-friendly grass cutting

*Reducing your grass cutting regime is the most cost-effective way to help bees – these actions do not involve purchasing wildflower seed*



## Short-flowering meadow:

Cut parts or all of your grass less frequently to allow wildflowers to grow and provide food.

Long-flowering meadow: provides food and shelter for pollinators

Kept short for humans

Short-flowering meadow: provides food for pollinators

These flowers will naturally grow in slightly longer grass. The more of these flowers the better!



This image shows a mosaic of three different grass cutting regimes.



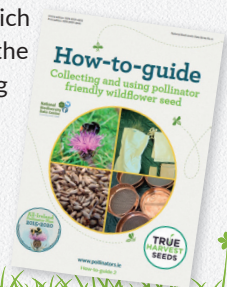


In a long-flowering meadow additional plants like these will grow naturally and provide food

Adding Yellow rattle seed after a meadow has established will help keep down grasses and encourage other wildflowers



To naturally improve your meadow collect wildflower seed locally. Sow in trays and grow-on as small plants (plugs) which can be added to the meadow in spring or autumn.



## Long-flowering meadow: Cut once a year to provide food and shelter for pollinators.

Cut once a year in September. Let the cuttings lie for a few days to allow any seed to drop and then remove. Meadows managed in this way will allow wildflowers to bloom throughout the pollinator season and also provide undisturbed areas for nesting.

These can be large areas or strips/patches within a more traditional grass cutting regime. Small areas can be cut with a scythe or strimmer. Larger areas may require specialised equipment or an arrangement with a local farmer. In large areas it is helpful to leave some small sections entirely uncut each year for other overwintering insects to nest.



Years 1-2



Year 4

### Remove the cuttings each year and be patient!

Most meadows will look very grassy for the first few years. If you remove the cuttings each autumn the soil fertility will drop and it will gradually become more flower rich on its own. The poorer the soil - the more flower-rich your meadow will be!