

## Coronation Wildflower Seed Planting Guidance

To commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III, you have been sent packets of British mixed wildflower seeds to plant on your school premises. We wish the new King a long reign and we hope that you will be inspired by the King's love of wildlife to begin thinking about how your school can become more nature friendly. This little packet of seeds could be the start of something amazing for you, your pupils and British wildlife.

These seed packets are a collaboration between the Department for Education and the Eden Project's National Wildflower Centre (NWC). The Eden Project is an educational charity and social enterprise. Their global mission is to create a movement that builds relationships between people and the natural world to demonstrate the power of working together for the benefit of all living things. The NWC creates wildflower habitats across the UK.

Your pack contains the following species of native wildflowers:

- Cornflower (blue)
- Corn poppy (red)
- Corn chamomile (white)
- Corncockle (purple)
- Corn marigold (yellow)
- Night flowering catchfly (white / pale pink)

These beautiful annual wildflowers will provide food for a wide range of insects, including bees and butterflies. The seeds will cover an area of 1-2 square metres. Grow in a border or large pots.

### How to grow

Sow in Spring or Autumn in a sunny spot that doesn't already have wildflowers growing there. Prepare the ground by digging and raking until the soil is fine and crumbly, then sow the seeds on the surface. Gently rake over the seed, then press them down with the back of the rake. Water in dry weather.

For the Spring season, sowing can be done up to the end of May, and ideally in mid-May. If the weather is hot and dry, the seeds will need to be watered. Autumn sowing is typically in September but can be sown into October.

Please ensure that you wash your hands after handling the seeds.

### National Education Nature Parks

Once you and your pupils have planted the seeds, the next step is to sign up to the [National Education Nature Park](#). This new initiative aims to restore and rejuvenate British wildlife by improving biodiversity on the education estate, bringing together all

the land from across the education estate into one vast, virtual nature park. If the whole of the education estate works towards increasing its biodiversity by installing bug hotels, sowing meadow seed, or creating more pollinator rich planting schemes on whatever small pieces of land they may have, collectively this can have a significant impact.

Your packets of seeds will encourage insects into your grounds, especially those that help pollinate our flowers and fruit, and this will help halt their [decline](#). You can be part of the solution to improving wildlife in our country.

Simply planting your seeds could even be the start of your school's journey to a Climate Action Award status. This exciting new award scheme aims to recognise and celebrate the achievements of children and young people working to improve their local environment while developing their skills in bioscience, sustainability, and digital and analytical skills.

The National Education Nature Park and Climate Action Award scheme will provide many educational opportunities for young people to take part in citizen science, biodiversity monitoring, mapping, and data analysis - learning important skills for the future, underpinned by a strong foundation in numeracy. They will help children and young people develop their connection to nature as well as supporting their mental and physical wellbeing by being outside.

There is no better time for your pupils to get involved in taking practical action to improve the biodiversity of your school and see over time how the virtual park changes. We'd love to hear/see your journey with these seeds by tagging **#ClimateinEducation**, and why not sign up to our [sustainability snapshot](#).

### **Further resources**

The Eden Project and National Wildflower Centre have a [host of resources](#) that you can use to support and extend this initiative, including lesson plans, creative activities and a wildflower song.

Apply for a free tree pack from the Woodland Trust. These are free packs of native saplings for schools and communities - with sizes from 15 - 420 saplings and multiple pack themes, you can choose the pack(s) best suited to your planting area. Applications are open now for delivery in November 2023 and expected to close in late August (subject to availability). Find out more on the Woodland Trust's [website](#).

The Tree Council supports schools and communities with £200 - £2000 grants from their Branching Out Fund, for projects to plant trees, hedgerows, and orchards. [Find out more](#) and [sign up to be notified](#) when the fund re-opens, which they hope to be July/August 2023.