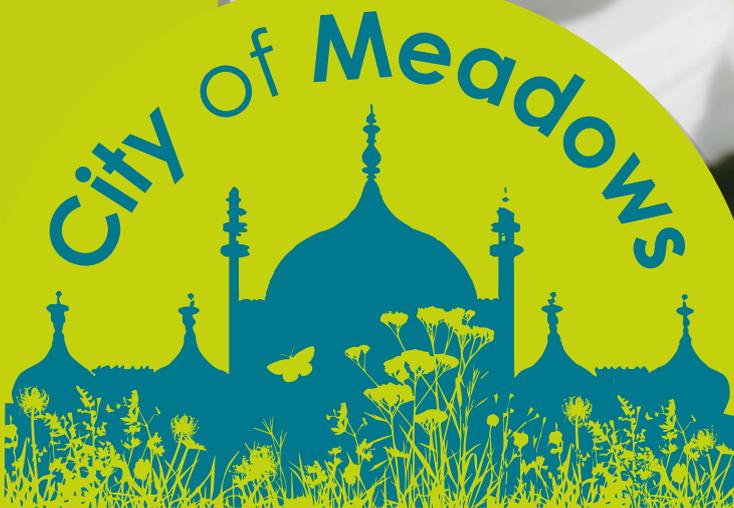


How to create a micro meadow in pots, troughs & containers



© Kim Dawson / B&HCC



Schools helping nature thrive in Brighton & Hove



SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK TRUST



Pots, troughs and containers are perfect for small spaces

1. Choose a container

You can use anything you like for planting!

How about...

- Holey boots
- An old bucket
- Empty paint tins
- A hessian sack
- An ice cream tub
- A colander
- Worn kitchen pots and pans
- Empty tin cans e.g. soup or baked beans
- A dustbin
- A wheelbarrow
- A broken suitcase
- An old sink - or even a bathtub!



Tip

Make sure your chosen container has drainage holes so that the soil doesn't get waterlogged: pierce or drill some small (0.5cm) holes in the bottom so that excess water can drain freely.

2. Fill your container

Fill your container with peat-free compost, or garden soil if available. Wildflowers don't need a deep layer of soil to thrive, so you can save on compost by adding a layer of rocks, broken crockery or sand first.

Tip

You can recycle your old broken plant pots by breaking them up into smaller pieces and adding it to the bottom of your container.



Thank you for helping us create a City of Meadows.

By working with schools across the city, we can create a network of pollinator habitats throughout the city, helping nature thrive in Brighton & Hove.



© Trevor Dines / SWT

3. Firm your soil

Firm down your compost / soil, then carefully scatter your wildflower seeds onto the surface.

Tip

A little goes a long way! Just 3-5g of seed is enough for one square metre of soil

4. Scatter your seeds

Aim for an even spread so that your plants won't all be crowded in one spot.

5. Water

Give your seeds a gentle sprinkle of water and place your container in a sunny spot.

Tip

Remember to keep watering your micro meadow so that the soil doesn't dry out – aim to keep it moist but not soggy



6. Wait and see!

Your seeds should sprout after 2 –3 weeks.

Why is it important to go peat free?

The peat in garden compost comes from a unique and globally rare wetland landscape known as peatland, which is one of our greatest natural treasures.

Healthy peatlands are bursting with wildlife and internationally important for some of our most charismatic creatures, from colourful sphagnum mosses to carnivorous sundews, rare dragonflies and spiders to golden plover, meadow pipits and skylarks. Peatlands are also the world's biggest terrestrial carbon store, despite covering just 3% of the Earth's land surface, and they hold an amazing 3.2 billion tonnes of carbon in the UK alone.

But peatlands are fragile. They take thousands of years to form (at a rate of 1mm of new peat per year) but can be completely destroyed within decades. In the UK, a staggering 94% of our lowland raised bog has been drained and destroyed for agriculture, forestry and industrial-scale peat extraction for gardening. The focus now is on halting peat extraction and restoring the damaged peatlands that remain.

In our efforts to help wildlife by creating mini meadows, the last thing we want to do is destroy a valuable natural habitat in the process. **So when you're shopping for compost, always check the label to make sure it's 100% peat-free.**

Tip

Create a sign for your meadow, letting your wider school community know you're part of our City of Meadows and why this is important.

