

How can allotment gardeners ensure a greater diversity of plants and insects?

Feeding bees with perennial flowering meadows

If you want to ensure an even greater diversity of plants and insects in your garden on a long term, you can still sow seeds this year from August to October. There are many flowering meadow mixtures. There are now hundreds of them. The decisive advantage of sowing perennial flowering meadows is that the mixtures mainly contain seeds for perennial plants, which can be sown both in spring and in late summer. The splendour of the flowers then lasts for years. This contrasts with annual mixtures, which are sown in spring, appear in full splendour the same year and then possibly lose their flowering power next year.



A sunny location in the garden which is rarely visited is ideal. After having found an area, which easily can exceed a few square meters, the soil should be cleared of overgrowth (1) and then prepared (in such a way) to get a fine crumbly soil structure (2). The seed mixture, which should mainly contain native species, is then sown evenly by hand on a windless and rain free day, lightly pressed down and then well watered (3). One to two grams of seeds are sufficient for an area of one square meter. The more humid and cooler weather in late summer makes it easier for the seeds to germinate and grow. However, if the weather is very dry, additional watering is needed in the first few weeks after sowing. In the next gardening year, the formerly barren area will have turned into a sea of flowers. For bees, bumblebees, butterflies and many other insects, wildflower meadows with native plant species offer an ideal source of pollen and nectar. To our benefit, the little pollinators will also provide a wide range of fruit, vegetables and flowers in our allotments.

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Picture 1-3: S. v. Rekowski



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