

Sowing Yellow Rattle into existing grassland

It's important to sow yellow rattle seed as soon after the grassland or verge has been cut, to get the seed into contact with the soil and then keep fingers crossed for some good hard frosts as dormancy is broken by chilling.

These seeds are only viable for a year so this needs to be done in early autumn to maximise chances of success. Ideally create scuff marks in the soil with feet/boots when sowing by hand, or with the head of the brush-cutter, to create small bare area for the seed to establish into.

The recommended sowing rate is 1g per sq metre (Naturescapes), but other web sites say between 0.1 and 1g per sq m. This often depends on cost and/or seed availability. Wildlife Trusts tend to sow at 0.2g per sq m but if cost is no object, then its best to aim for at least 1g per sq m.

To distribute the seed evenly across the grassland it is recommended that the seed is mixed with horticultural silver sand (or kiln dried sand, as fine as you can buy) in a bucket and then distribute evenly by scattering seed and sand as you walk systematically across the grassland.

