

RESTORING SHROPSHIRE'S VERGES: Case Study

PLANTING A WILDFLOWER AREA: TURNPIKE COTTAGE EDGTON
Grid Reference SO385855

Householder initiative – wildflower patch developed

Costs:

- 1 Butterfly Mat Biodegradable Seed Carpet £11.50
- 1 box National Trust Country Meadow seed £12.99
- 1 box National Trust Butterflies seed £12.99
- Half a sachet of yellow rattle that we already had in the greenhouse



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RESTORING SHROPSHIRE'S VERGES PROJECT

The seed was sown onto a patch approximately 18sq metres of very poor stoney soil. It was formerly a lawn area but was dug up to install a new septic tank and we decided to try sowing the wildflower seed instead of relaying the lawn.

We raked the ground to loosen it up a bit and then the seed, mixed together, and seed mat were sown straight onto the rough ground at the end of May.

We covered it with compost and watered well.

June was incredibly hot and dry so the patch was watered on a daily basis sometimes twice a day. The seed germinated within three weeks which was pretty amazing considering the dry conditions.

It was a little patchy in places but as it grew the bare patches became less obvious. Although the seeds germinated quite quickly the plants were fairly slow growing during June and July but August brought the rain and things progressed incredibly rapidly.

We saw a lot of blues and purples come through to begin with, predominately Borage, Lacy Phacelia and cornflowers but these were soon joined by poppies, cosmos and corncockle.

The flowers range from 1 to 3 foot and have stood up to the weather remarkably well, in fact they are still flowering although a little battered in places now (2023)

We plan to let them seed, cut them down and clear the vegetation away and replant next year adding plenty of yellow rattle to discourage the grass from growing back.

It's been an experiment that has worked far better than we expected from year one and has given us an immense amount of joy and full of insects.

The plot before sowing



In full flower summer 2023





We plan to repeat every year

With thanks to Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project (RSVP) for the inspiration!
and Shropshire Hills National Landscape Trust for initial funding for RSVP



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