



AUTUMN SOWING MIXTURES



Autumn



Now is the time to prepare and undertake an autumn sowing of Euroflor flower seed for the following year's spring and summer flowering.

Why autumn sowing?

Sowing perennial flower mixtures in the autumn for spring flowering allows the winter hardy species in selected **Euroflor** mixes time to establish over winter when competition is weaker and the seed bed will have sufficient moisture.

Also, flowering the following spring will commence much earlier in the season than spring-sown mixtures. This provides a hugely beneficial food source for early pollinating insects and the added value of an extended flowering season, providing enjoyment for all until the first frosts.



NEWPORT STREET SCENE

Why Euroflor?

For the past few years, **Euroflor** urban flowers have been colouring the UK countryside from the Moray Firth in northern Scotland to St Enodoc in Cornwall, from Newport in Wales to Brighton in the south of England. The locations range from city and town parks, verges, promenades, housing and industrial estates, golf courses, cemeteries, Olympic site, memorial gardens...in fact the areas of use are almost unlimited.

The **Euroflor** mixtures available for sowing in the autumn have been specially selected to cover a range of situations but the one overriding benefit they all provide, other than **Reviva**, is the swathes of colour produced across the urban landscape.

Different situations require different mixtures, so whether the requirement is to encourage pollinating insects, commemorate an event, provide an impact statement, a green roof project, fragrant lawn or looking to improve the soil, there is a **Euroflor** mixture available for all.



MORAY FIRTH

Sowing



A major initiative has been launched by Rigby Taylor to help reverse the national decline in pollinating insects. These mixtures contain the best species for pollinators, whilst delivering high performance flower displays.

Sowing different mixtures from the **Pollin-8** range ensures a longer seasonal supply of nectar and pollen and a more diverse range of habitats whilst at the same time providing incredible flower displays!

PROJECT **POLLIN-8** RANGE



FLORA BRITANNICA



SPRING FLOWER



RAINBOW PERENNIALS



NATIVE POLLINATOR

Commemorate Range

Many commemorative or celebratory events take place across the country every year. Some are of a national nature, whilst others are local. Some commemorate the past, others celebrate the present. A dedicated range has been introduced to mark such events and also to support the essential work of pollinating insects.



SOUVENIR



ALLIANCE



BLEUET DE FRANCE



HOPE



- ❁ High impact, vibrant flower displays
- ❁ All seed germination tested
- ❁ Supports bio-diversity
- ❁ Sustains insect populations, particularly when other nectar sources are limited
- ❁ Significant cost savings compared with bedding plant schemes or mown turf



Discovery Boxes

Discovery Boxes have proved a great success, providing the opportunity to compare a wide range of mixtures across a smaller site with minimal outlay. These **Discovery Boxes** are supplied as bespoke options containing 10 x 50g sachets, which have been selected by the user from a choice of the mixtures across the entire **Euroflor** autumn sown perennial range. Each individual, moisture-protected foil seed sachet will cover approximately 10-15 sq.m.

For the joy

Timeless mixtures

Two perennial mixes, **Classic** and **Tenor**, provide more natural looking meadows, combining garden and wildflower colour combinations. Sowings are particularly useful in intermediate zones between countryside and urban areas....a less formal, natural looking public park would be a good example.



Monmouthshire County Council made savings of £44,500 in 2014 using Euroflor seed mixtures as opposed to bulbs and bedding.

For your FREE copy of their Case Study call 0800 424919.



Soil Improver

The mixture **Reviva** is not sown for its colour, but for its combination of rich foliage textural plants with Nitrogen fixing leguminous species. The plants produce vigorous ground cover vegetation and improve soil fertility. The vegetative cover and root growth reduces soil erosion and the leaching of valuable soil nutrients over the winter. As an 'in-between crop', where the current years spring sown **Euroflor** flowering has finished, **Reviva** can be sown in the autumn and cultivated into the soil the following April just prior to a repeat **Euroflor** spring sowing.



s of Spring



Green Roof

This mix is designed specifically for seeding shallow, free-draining lightweight substrates. Highly resistant to drought, it provides flowering colour to green roofs. Whilst designed for green roof situations, the same benefits will be obtained when sowing on sites that have shallow, poor quality soils, slopes or heat traps against walls.

Fragrant Lawn

This mix has been introduced to replace traditional, non-formal lawns and contains aromatic species. The result is a low maintenance lawn with high drought tolerance that can be managed as a meadow with as few as 1-2 cuts per year at a height of 25-75mm. The flowers will also attract pollinating insects.



FloraFleece

Biodegradable matting

For use as a weed suppressant and support for Euroflor Urban Meadow sowing or grass seed sowing

What is it?

A recycled fabric composed of 50% jute, 25% cotton, 25% brown wool, with a hessian scrim. The matting is made of natural fibres, which will break down through the growing season 5-8 months.

How is it used?

The ground on which the **FloraFleece** is to be used should not be excessively compacted, i.e. it can support seedling establishment. The matting should be rolled out over the area to be sown, with 1"-1½" of a sterile substrate placed on top. Seed can then be sown on the substrate and rolled. The area should be watered and not allowed to dry out during the initial stages of germination and seedling growth. Once the roots have penetrated through the matting into the soil watering is only required if plant stress becomes apparent.

Observations indicate that a rotovator could re-work the area the following season without the risk of clogging should this be required.



The benefits

FloraFleece matting has proven to be an efficient method for the control of the soil weed seed bank, particularly late germinating annuals like Fat Hen and Redshank which may compete against **Euroflor** flowers after 3 or 4 years on the same site.

The trials proved that a maintained area of grass can be transformed into a flower meadow without the use of weedkillers and without any prior seedbed preparation.

The natural fibres of **FloraFleece** improve water retention for germination and seedling growth.

Trials

In independent trials over an 18-month period, **FloraFleece** matting was successfully used on:

- ▶ a prepared seed bed,
- ▶ a maintained lawn without weedkiller application,
- ▶ a weed infested area (Dock and Creeping Buttercup) 30 cm high weed without strimming or weedkiller application (the weight of water-laden compost was sufficient to smother the weeds).

As the seedlings develop the roots grow through the matting into the soil beneath. Weed growth is smothered and germinating seed from the weed seed bank will not grow through the matting. Persistent weeds such as Dock and Buttercup have been successfully smothered.

No root scorching of the seedlings was observed as they grew through the smothered and rotting leaves.

Trials were conducted by Landscape & Environmental Services Ltd at two locations in Cumbria, 2016-2018.

Site, seed and soil preparation

SOIL

Euroflor can be successfully sown on different soil types such as loam, sand, clay, stone and those with slightly acidic to alkaline soils in the pH range of 5 – 8.

It is important to avoid extreme acidic and high alkaline soils. Organic matter, such as composted leaf mould or manure should be added where soil quality is poor.

SLOPE

Euroflor sowings at 5g per m² has been successfully trialed on steep slopes.

Avoid soil erosion by watering frequently and stopping before run-off occurs. Slopes will dry out quickly especially those exposed to wind.

SHADE

Shaded areas vary in light intensity but as a basic guide, if natural vegetation grows, so will **Euroflor**.

SOIL FERTILITY

The addition of a pre-seeded fertilizer such as **Apex Organic OC2 5-2-10** will improve the establishment of seedlings and provide nutrition for later growth.

Soils known to be low in fertility may benefit from a soil analysis to check for deficiencies that may impact upon subsequent plant growth.

SOIL WEED BANKS

This is the single most aggravating factor for the establishment of Urban Meadows; in extreme cases it can out-compete the flower displays making it look unsightly and neglected. Seeds can remain viable in the soil for many years. When surface vegetation is removed, weed seeds in the soil may germinate and bare soil will become covered by seedlings that need to be removed. This may be necessary 2 or 3 times over one or two growing seasons.

On new sites, weed control should ideally be managed before sowing either through the application of a glyphosate herbicide such as **Gallup Biograde Amenity**, the use of soil sterilisation equipment or by solarisation techniques.

SOIL PREPARATION

Soil should be similarly prepared as for sowing grass seed but not to the same fine tilth quality as required for a level lawn.

It is important not to overwork a clay soil as heavier seed may sink in too deeply and not be able to put shoots up to the surface. On the other hand, a slightly underworked lumpy soil will provide micro-crevices that may assist the seed to germinate in such sheltered moist areas.

WATER AVAILABILITY

The first three weeks are critical as this is the key germination period and the soil ideally needs to be kept moist. During

establishments, irrigation may be required during dry weather conditions, particularly on free-draining soils.

Drought stress can result in partial germination, incomplete ground cover, stunted growth and premature flowering.

BIRDS

If the site is particularly prone to bird problems, increase sowing rate to compensate.

SEED STORAGE

Euroflor seed should be stored in the original sealed foil packets in a dry, dark, cool place, until used.

SITE PREPARATION (August/Early September)

Urban meadows will grow in most soils, however a soil analysis is recommended as it will indicate specific mineral deficiencies or extreme pH levels for correction.

Cut down existing vegetation to 5 – 10 cm and remove, (or bury it nearby in order to recycle the biomass).

Apply a glyphosate based weedkiller, such as **Gallup Biograde Amenity**, when the average diurnal temperature is >6°C Do not exceed the manufacturers application rate.

SEED BED PREPARATION (August/Early September)

Remove surface debris and stones >7cm or >5cm if the soil is very stony.

Beware of imported, previously non-cultivated and contaminated top soil which may contain a lot of weed seed that will later germinate and compete with **Euroflor**.

The soil should be worked when it is moist but not waterlogged.

Fertilisers and soil conditioners should only be added if a soil analysis indicates the necessity to do so and then added when the soil is being worked to ensure an even distribution.

The soil should be worked to a depth of 4-6 inches and raked to form an even seed bed.

SOWING PERIODS

Autumn sowing: September, October.

Euroflor meadow mixes are not generally sown with grass seed.

SOWING

Sowing should be done in the right weather conditions (no wind, low soil humidity, etc).

Sow at 3g/m², unless otherwise stated, mixing the seed with dry sand (ratio 1:10 or more). If possible sow twice, at 90°, in half doses to obtain a homogeneous seed cover.

Raking is optional but the seed should not be covered with more than 3mm of the soil. The sown areas should be rolled lightly.

