

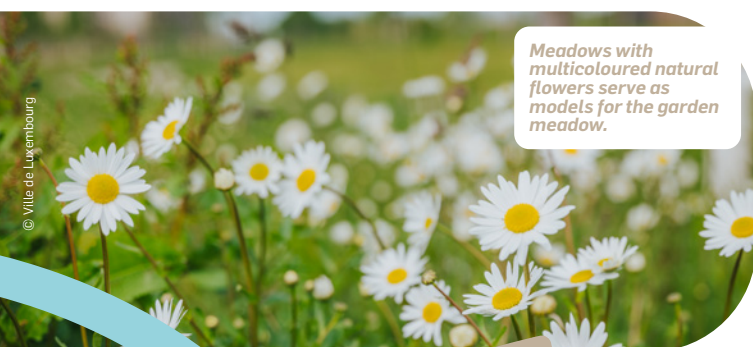
Flower meadows and lawns

A colourful flower meadow belongs in every natural garden. It attracts butterflies, grasshoppers, beetles and other animals. But what if you have children who want to play in the garden? Is a lawn not more appropriate? Is it not better for outdoor games and more resilient? A lawn offers space and durability. In the city, where space is at a premium, you need to think carefully before deciding between a lawn or a meadow.

Flower meadow or grass lawn?

At first glance, flower meadows and lawns differ only in terms of height. However, meadows contribute to the protection of the natural environment, and their wild flowers attract butterflies and other beneficial insects.

Flower meadow	Lawn
Wide variety of species	Moderate species diversity
A wealth of structures	Limited variety of structures
Soil enrichment	Depleted soil life
Mowing twice a year instead of once a week	Frequent cutting (10 to 20 times per season)
Calcareous grassland does not need fertiliser	Frequently mown lawns need regular fertilisation
Plants can flower and reseed themselves	Few plants reach flowering stage
Animals can find shelter	It is difficult for animals to find shelter here
Possibility of planting late-blooming bulbs	Only early-flowering bulbs can be planted here
After mowing, it can be used and played on	It can be played on and used all the time



Meadows with multicoloured natural flowers serve as models for the garden meadow.

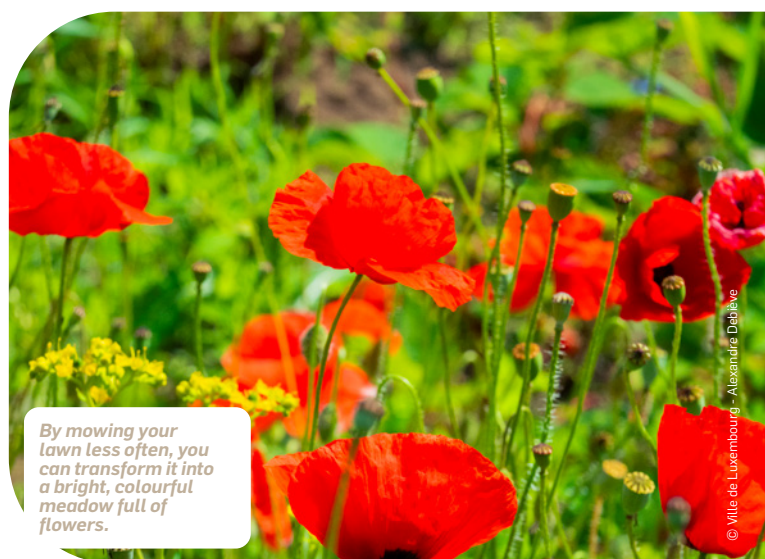


Many butterflies and other insects specialise in certain meadow plants.

Biodiversity at home

Where to sow a meadow?

The ideal surfaces are those that are far from the house and terrace, and only occasionally walked on. These areas should not be too shaded, as meadow wildflowers need light and warmth. Since you do not need to mow often, slopes and embankments are a good choice. Flower meadows are a good way for companies in business parks to create large green spaces around their buildings in a way that respects nature. However, flower meadows can also be planted in private gardens. It is also possible to transform parts or strips of a garden into flower meadows.



By mowing your lawn less often, you can transform it into a bright, colourful meadow full of flowers.

multiplicity

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How to convert part of your lawn into a flower meadow?

You can start by mowing your lawn less often or sowing a few scattered perennial beds.

Transformation of a lawn	Sowing a meadow
Mow less often	The soil must be carefully prepared
Some of the species suitable to this type of garden will already be present, or will move in over time	Use wild plant seeds adapted to the region
Lasts several years	Results are visible after one to two years
Species composition can only be influenced by reseedling	Species composition can be influenced by seed selection

The best results are achieved by sowing a suitable seed mix.



Preparation

- Remember: meadows with multicoloured flowers are meant to be nutrient-poor. No need for fertiliser or compost,
- Before sowing, the surface must be raked and then levelled. Take this opportunity to remove thistles, sorrel, couch grass, bindweed or an existing lawn. A natural garden does not need any herbicides.

Seeds

- For a natural garden, use seed mixtures of local or regional species. The first few years are often disappointing, but over time these mixtures will reveal their true beauty, producing multicoloured wildflowers adapted to the location. Seed mixtures from "Wèllplanzesom Lëtzebuerg" are particularly recommended.
- When sowing a flower meadow, you must be patient for the first few years. The annual transformation of the meadow is a natural process. The months of February to May or August to October are ideal for seeding,
- When sowing, use 1 to 4 gr/m².

Development and maintenance

- In the year of sowing, it is important to make a cleanup cut so that weeds are not competing with wildflower seedlings. Grass clippings must be removed after mowing to avoid nutrient input.
- the meadow will not need fertilisation or watering,
- From the second year onwards, the flower meadow must be cut twice a year (in June–July and October). Before removing the cut grass, it is advisable to let it dry for two to three days so that the seeds can fall out when the grass is turned over. The exact timing of cutting depends on the weather.

A green lawn or a multicoloured lawn?

Typical ornamental lawns have little ecological value due to the lack of flowering plants. In addition, large quantities of water and fertiliser are needed to maintain a lawn's "well-groomed" appearance.

To enhance the ecological value of an ornamental lawn, we recommend reducing fertilisation, watering and mowing, so that flowering plants and a natural species composition can develop over time. Environmentally friendly seed mixtures can also be used. If the lawn is to be used largely for leisure purposes, there is also the option of transforming small patches into "islands" for extensive use.

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Wèllplanzesom Lëtzebuerg
<https://wellplanzen.lu/>



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MECB - Aménagement d'espaces verts proches de l'état naturel en milieu urbain: environnement.public.lu