

SUPPORT A SPECIES:

Wildflowers for wildlife



Photo: Forget-Me-Nots



Loughborough
University

WILDFLOWERS FOR WILDLIFE

Common wildflowers provide habitat and food for a range of wildlife and are an excellent indicator of the health of our environment. They are however under threat from pollution and land management practices.

Wildflower Facts

- Some Welsh farms used to keep a wildflower-rich field called a 'Cae Ysbyty' or 'Hospital Field' where sick animals grazed to aid their recovery.
- Over 20 species of orchid grow in wildflower meadows.

Threats to Wildflowers

- Wildflower habitats have shrunk by 97% in the UK since the 1930s.
- This decrease in area dedicated to wildflowers is a result of an increase in agriculture and urban development.
- The disappearance of wildflower meadows is also having a large impact on insect species and their predators such as birds, bats and hedgehogs.

How You Can Help

- Plant wildflower seeds in your garden, making sure that they are native, to provide local insects with plants they like best.
- Leave an area of garden unmanaged and see what grows.

Wildflowers on Campus

Check out the University's wildflower fields located at STEMLab, Holywell Park and East Park Link Road. Take a walk around Burleigh Wood in spring to take in the carpets of bluebells.

