

Jude Wood

From: Andrew Moulton <Andrew.Moulton@[REDACTED]>
Sent: 30 June 2021 16:18
To: Jude Wood
Subject: RE: Scalping

Hello Jude, wildflowers need nutrient poor soil in which to thrive. Areas with high nutrients tend to favour faster growing grasses that stop the slower growing flowers from getting enough light.

There are several ways of establishing wildflowers:

Cutting and removing the arisings a couple of times a year (July and Sept) helps deplete the nutrients. After a year or 2 you could then try adding some Yellow Rattle to the site on areas of bare ground usually in August or September. YR is semi parasitic on grass and checks its growth.

This can take a few years to establish properly. Once the YR is dominant you can then try adding a wildflower mix on prepared ground (scarifying or raking to expose bare ground) either in the autumn or spring.

Perseverance is the key! The Site at Yeo Valley in Barnstaple has taken us 3 years to get to the Yellow Rattle and a few wildflowers.

Stripping the top soil from a site to leave the nutrient poor subsoil. Its expensive and the carbon emissions from stripping the soil and removing it is hard to justify, but you will get a fairly good selection of wild flowers within a year or 2.

Annual flower sowing. I am not sure if you have seen what Portmore golf course do each year but they rotovate the area in front of their access and sow an annual mix. It looks spectacular, but annual flowers are not as good as a perennial native mix for our pollinators I've described above but does work well in urban situations.

Combinations of the above. As part of our new artificial pitch behind Tarka Tennis we have sown a combined annual flower/ perennial native mix. The idea being that the annual flowers provide a nursery cover for the slower growing perennial plants and give a colourful display in the first year whilst hopefully keeping the weeds down. Mixed results so far but the dry April and cold/ wet May haven't helped.

I should mention Glyphosate. Spraying off an area to kill any weeds before preparation really does help with establishment, although the PC may be trying to move away from its use.

Involving the community and signage/ press release/ parish magazine also help people to understand what you are trying to achieve.

Always happy to advise further and the Plantlife website has loads of help.

Kind regards

Andrew

From: Jude Wood <jude@[REDACTED]>
Sent: 30 June 2021 11:36