

2021
— 2022
Collection

Professional

Pictorial Meadows

pictorialmeadows.co.uk



Founded by Professor Nigel Dunnett almost 20 years ago, Pictorial Meadows have become known across the UK and beyond as 'The Meadow Experts'. Since the very beginning we have been at the forefront of researching and developing new approaches and products for naturalistic landscape management, focussed on bring benefits both to our environment and the people who live in it.

Today, Pictorial Meadows is part of the not-for-profit Green Estate Community Interest Company. This has allowed us to combine our wonderful designer meadow mixes with all the skills of an organisation that excels in horticulture and landscape management. The result is that we are uniquely able to offer a complete meadow service, from bespoke seed mixes and consultation through to installation and meadow care.

Meadows have never been more popular, and we're excited to be able to bring you our 2021–22 collection inside.





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We're proud to partner with a number of organisations including:



Spotlight

Continuing Our Research



At Pictorial Meadows, we specialise in seeded landscapes. It's a specialism that requires an encyclopaedic knowledge of not just how they grow, but often also why they don't! So, how do we develop this knowledge?

Like all plant lovers, we spend a lot of time looking at plant communities in the wild, and you can often find us swapping information with friends, customers and others in the trade. Much of the work, however, boils down to slow, steady, and methodical plot research. Our strong links with the University of Sheffield supports us in our research.

A reliable supply of quality seed is essential, and we need to be confident that each new species will germinate in the field, survive our British climate, and thrive in our new meadow communities. Field germination is very different from germination in a glasshouse or other controlled environments, and many species have survival mechanisms that 'lock up' their germination if conditions aren't perfect for them.

We can accept a few 'shy and slow' starters in each of our mixes, but we need to be sure that when they do appear, there will still be room for them to get established and put on an excellent annual showing. Slugs are the other major issue and can 'graze' a field of tasty seedlings down to nothing almost overnight, which is why many seemingly great species don't make it into our mixes.

This year in our trial beds, we are testing out dozens of new species.

Some of them are lovely British natives such as Monkshood, Oxslip and Harebell. Others are wildflowers more familiar across on the Continent such as some wonderful Delphiniums, tulips, and salvias. Our trial beds this year also include species from more far-flung meadow communities outside of Europe including striking *Liatris*, *Asters*, *Kniphopias* and *Amsonias*.

It's not just the seed mixes themselves that continually evolve. Success also depends on continually developing and improving urban meadow management techniques. There is simply no substitute for getting back out onto our own and customers sites year after year and putting management ideas to the test.

Ever since the Rotherham River of Flowers, our meadow teams have helped local authorities achieve great successes with annual seed sown meadows especially on inner-city central reservations and roundabouts. Through specialist management, many of these displays have overcome common problems of gradual weed seed build-up and nutrient loss. In other areas, our teams have helped clients to progress to perennial meadow schemes which, with the proper timely management, get better year after year.

Services

Design & Consultation

We do more than just supply meadow seed mixes and turf. Our meadow experts are also available to assist with design and consultation services for new and existing projects. A meadow project often comes with many questions, and a consultation with an expert can give you the knowledge and confidence to get started.

A consultation often begins with a site survey. This will identify a number of relevant factors on your site such as soil type, drainage, existing vegetation, slopes etc. After this, our meadow expert will discuss a number of potential options with you, seeking to understand what you are looking for in your meadow, before producing a comprehensive report for your site containing recommendations, designs, and images.

Whilst most consultations require a site visit, we can also offer advice and guidance over the phone or online. Get in touch with us and we'll be happy to discuss your project further.



Above: A meadows plan prepared for a new build housing development incorporating sustainable urban drainage.

Right: Assessing drainage and site conditions for a new perennial meadow site. Our team includes landscape architects and horticulturalists allowing us to bring an array of expertise to all projects.

Training

If you are a landscape professional, garden designer, or are just interested to learn more about the fascinating world of designer meadows, you might be interested in our one of our training opportunities. We offer a range of training options designed to give you the knowledge and skills needed to confidently design with, specify, install, and maintain Pictorial Meadows for yourself or your clients.

Over the past 20 years, the Pictorial Meadows team have been involved in almost every type of meadow project imaginable, from Olympic Parks to conservation areas, council highways to visitor attractions, and we are keen to share what we have learned.

We offer free online CPD training for landscape practices and designers, host regular on site 'Open Meadow' events at our HQ in Sheffield, and can provide bespoke training tailored around a specific project or client's needs. To find out more about training available, contact us via our website.





Above: Get up closer with an Aqua annual meadow at one of our 'Open Meadow' days.

Left: Our Technical Director, Jonathan, completes a CPD session with a landscape practice. We also offer online training options.

Services

Installation

Alongside creating stunning meadow seed mixes and turfs, our teams work across the UK and beyond establishing Pictorial Meadows quickly and without fuss for clients looking for the easiest option to achieve an outstanding display.

Our teams are available to assist with all aspects of creating your new meadow, including planning, soil preparation, sowing, and other establishment tasks.

In addition to their knowledge and experience, our team will arrive equipped with the latest specialist equipment to ensure your meadow is installed quickly and efficiently. For larger areas, this can offer significant cost-savings versus installation by a non-specialist.

Maintenance

Whether you're the proud owner of an existing meadow, or planning a new one, you'll want it to thrive and be looking it's best for as long as possible. Regardless of how they were created, using professional maintenance services will keep your meadow in its best condition for longer.

Our meadow maintenance team are able to offer on-going scheduled visits to your location, undertaking a number of tasks including a health review of the meadow and weed survey, a programme of weed removal and application of fertilisers as required, and a regular cut-and-collect schedule.

Below: A mid-season meadow cut. Sometime referred to as a 'Chelsea Chop', this can provide a second flowering of some meadows and extend their display.





Above: Installing new meadows using Pictorial Turf. Even across large areas, installation can be completed in a number of days. Dependent on time of year, the meadow can be in full flower a few weeks later.

Left: A species check being completed as part of our meadow maintenance service.

Turf Meadows

The easiest solution for specifiers, Pictorial Turf is the instant problem free meadow for a wide range of situations.





Introduction

Pictorial Turf comes in eight unique variations. Expertly designed, each turf is nurtured and grown in perfect conditions in a nursery setting. This controlled process allows for a much higher percentage of unusual and often challenging to germinate meadow species from around the world that often fail in seed sown meadows.

With an established process that provides perfect growing conditions including irrigation, freedom from weeds and with frequent inspections, Pictorial Turf will arrive as a problem-free, instant meadow solution offering immediate visual impact.

We design our mixes to change throughout the season and from year to year, some have subtle colour and form combinations, others are strikingly bold and dramatic. Some mixes will thrive on average soil types whilst others, dominated by more of the dainty and lower growing species, are recommended for lower fertility and more free draining sites. Just as every meadow responds to location and management, a Pictorial Turf meadow will change as it develops.

The easiest solution for specifiers, Pictorial Turf can be relied on in a wide range of situations from new building developments, roundabouts and high-profile verges through to easy to manage, high impact floral features across parks, estates, and visitor attractions.

Prices

0–50 sqm	£30 per sqm
51– 100 sqm	£25.50 per sqm
101 sqm+	£21.54 per sqm



Pictorial Meadows



Turf Meadows



“ Our mixes change throughout the season and from year to year.



Indian Summer

This is an exuberant, warm and visually exciting meadow for average to low fertility, well-drained soils. Refined over many years, Indian Summer establishes a lovely meadow showing continuous waves of colour and form from late spring right through to late autumn. As the name suggests, this has a great late summer and autumn impact. A wide range of changing colours throughout the season including strong yellows, bronzes, oranges and reds shot through with purple and softened with whites and creams.



Height: Tall

Purple Haze

Purple Haze is one of our much-improved colour themed favourites. Outstanding in its reliability, this is a well-structured meadow for all sorts of soil conditions and locations. Colours are predominantly purples and white, with spikes of mauve, and billows of blue for contrast. It responds well to an extra early summer cut for repeat late summer flowering. If left uncut as late into the season as possible, Purple Haze provides great autumn and early-winter season seed heads for hungry birds.



Height: Medium

Patchwork Quilt

Patchwork Quilt is a lovely, light and airy meadow that brings together some of the more dainty species. This meadow thrives in more freely draining and lower nutrient soils, and grows excellently on chalk and limestone areas also. In the right environment, it is another very long season flowering meadow, with complex and subtle colour combinations changing throughout the year – a great choice too for sunny banks, path sides and narrow verges.



Height: Medium

Treasure Chest

Gorgeous, robust and very richly coloured, Treasure Chest has proven itself time and time again to be an absolute winner for long flowering impact on normal fertility soils. Colour combinations change almost weekly as the year unfolds making this one of our most varied and exciting meadows. The species selection in this meadow offers an absolute haven for wildlife, from early pollination through to late autumn seed heads.



Height: Medium

Botanical Skyline

The premium meadow solution for all green roofs, Botanical Skyline also works wonderfully for really low fertility landscapes, including seaside areas and road verges. This species-rich meadow includes a vast range of drought and salt-tolerant plants including sedums, with some fine very ornamental grasses and a plethora of lovely plants most often associated with alpine meadows southern European hillsides and rock gardens. In unusually harsh environments such as green roofs, no annual cut and collects are required.



Height: Low

Bee Happy

A beautiful jewel-like meadow containing only low to medium height species. Bee Happy flowers across a long season but is especially rich in spring pollen and nectar supply. This meadow makes a delightful feature either side of hard or grassed paths as well as a gentle and interesting transition between a path and taller meadow plantings. This is a meadow that responds especially well to additional midseason cuts, helping to keep the overall height of the display to a more distinctive lawn like level.



Height: Low

Woodland Fringe

We designed Woodland Fringe for areas that have light dappled shade such as under young trees or around the outer edges of mature trees and hedgerows. This meadow provides a good solution for North facing walls and buildings where there is less strong sunlight. As with all woodland flora, the best flowers appear from early spring through to early summer, but you can achieve repeat-flowering by giving the meadow a midsummer cut. Colours include pinks, reds, purples and whites.



Height: Medium

Super Pollinator

Inspired by the bold and dramatic vegetation of the central European Steppes, Super Pollinator has dramatic foliage forms as well as a lovely intensity of strong and striking flowers. Lots of foamy whites, smoky purples and clear blues with flashes of bright yellows, creams and blazing scarlet. Packed full of pollinator goodness this meadow will be buzzing all summer long.



Height: Medium



Case Study

Designing with Meadows

There is no denying that meadows are now an extremely desirable element in any designer or specifiers arsenal. Introducing more naturalistic options into landscape and garden planning is now becoming something demanded by both customers and the conscience of every environmentally aware designer.





No longer are meadows seen as ‘fillers’ and relegated to the nether regions of a landscape. Increasingly they take prime spots where people can fully immerse themselves in the joy that a Pictorial Meadow can bring to any external space.

Often labelled as ‘wildflower areas’ and treated as a single sampling of one particular style – these areas have the potential to become the stars of the garden show. The Pictorial range, from our annual and perennial seed mixes to our award-winning Pictorial Turf allows specifiers to choose from a range of over 30 very different mixtures which are all designed to create perfectly balanced meadow-like plantings. The real excitement though is when you realise that all of these beautiful mixes have been developed for use across a range of soils and situations and can, and indeed should be used in conjunction with each other.

By taking away the worry and risk of trying to recreate a traditional meadow on typical garden soils, using Pictorial products allows the designer the opportunity to be more ‘painterly’ and creative in their approach. We offer some very distinctive colourways and forms in our mixes which, when placed adjacent to each other, create very distinctive and stunning ‘brush strokes’ in the landscape.

Meadows also create the opportunity to be creative with budgets. For instance, if you have nominated a large area for meadow then why not use our premium product – Pictorial Turf – as either the ‘frame’ for a more prudent seeded option in the centre, or even use the turf as

flowing drifts through a seeded background?

For public areas where a quick and cost-effective solution is required, annual meadows offer an answer – but how often are they specified as part of a ‘serious’ garden or landscape design? By definition they are relatively fleeting and so rarely figure as a planting solution. However, the public mood is changing and land owners are seeing the vast potential in using annuals as a visually stunning solution which marries perfectly with today’s worries around drought resistant plantings and ticking the biodiversity box.

In all aspects they excel, and when used alongside our other longer-lived meadow mixes they can create wonderful feelings of surprise and interest – and by combining different mixes it is easy to unlock unique styles. For instance, how about an area of stunning Aqua with drifts of creamy Marshmallow running through it, or the ever-popular Classic mix in a ‘picture frame’ of Spearmint?

In a garden setting Pictorial Meadows blend in surprisingly well with more traditional features such as herbaceous borders. Their naturalistic form contrasts perfectly against more formal planting and especially when you can provide a clean boundary or edge to the meadow such as a mowing strip or path edge. They look even more impressive when used as large-scale and dramatic schemes with pathways intersecting them and allowing people close access to the beauty of the flowers and the wildlife they attract.

Annual Meadows

We design Pictorial Annual mixes to create incredible impressionistic visual impacts, whilst being a magnet for all sorts of pollinators.





Introduction

Pictorial Annuals allow you to choose from 13 beautifully designed mixes. Each is easy to establish, very reliable and thrives in all sorts of soil conditions – as long as it’s weed-free to start with and preferably in an open sunny spot.

Expect constantly changing colour combinations from late spring through to early autumn as more and more flowers emerge. We design Pictorial Annual mixes to create incredible impressionistic visual impacts, whilst being a magnet for all sorts of pollinators.

These mixes provide a cost-effective solution for any scale of landscaping project. They have been successfully sown along kilometres of central reservation, but are equally at home in parks, gardens, and visitor attractions. They also work well as temporary landscape solutions, bringing interest and colour to an area ahead of more permanent changes.

Prices

20g	£15	250g	£98
50g	£24	500g	£155
100g	£45	1kg	£250



“ Soft pinks and delicate whites...



Feature Product

Marshmallow

Soft pinks and delicate whites define this dreamy looking mix. When designing this meadow, it was the colours of marshmallow and candy floss that inspired us. A reliable meadow, bringing subtle colour and graceful structure to gardens and landscapes across a long season.

Sow Time: Spring

Sow Rate: 3g sqm

Height: Medium



Classic

The original and most popular of our seed mixes, Classic produces shimmering, stunning and ever-changing displays from late spring right through to mid-autumn. Rich in dainty whites, blues, pinks and reds in the early stages, the meadow turns to gorgeous autumnal colours later in the season. An exceptionally reliable performer in all sorts of ground conditions this meadow is beautiful both in bold vistas as well as intimate pockets.



Sow Time: Spring

Sow Rate: 3g sqm

Height: Medium

Pixie

This is a delightful star-studded mix with the same wonderfully long and robust flowering characteristics of Classic, but with a greater focus on dwarf and compact slender annual species. At home, this mix is perfect for small gardens and containers. We also recommend this meadow for areas such as central reservations and roundabouts where visibility is critical. Whilst there is no lack of colour to this meadow each component species is so dainty that a lovely natural look is quickly achieved.



Sow Time: Spring

Sow Rate: 3g sqm

Height: Low

Candy

For lovers of exciting, exuberant landscapes this meadow is a particularly vibrant collection of sparkling flowers that bursts with brightness and colour. As this carnival of colour explodes, you can expect ever-changing combinations of sweet purples, playful yellows, radiant reds and splashes of wispy whites and baby blues producing stunning 'Eye-candy' effects.



Sow Time: Spring

Sow Rate: 3g sqm

Height: Medium

Aqua

Originally designed to represent the shimmering waters of the Olympic aquatic centre, our Aqua mix has been improved every year since with careful adjustment to the meadow recipe to help give even more visual impact. Restful and harmonious, this meadow combines a broad palette of blues, lifted by foaming white and with accenting undercurrents of lime green. Aqua is another tremendous long season display with some interesting variations as autumn approaches.



Sow Time: Spring

Sow Rate: 3g sqm

Height: Medium

Patriotic

A much loved careful combination of red, white, and blue shades brought together to provide a striking meadow design. This meadow mix has been created to produce waves of colour and a high visual impact from its first flowering early in the season right up to the first frosts of winter.



Sow Time: Spring

Sow Rate: 3g sqm

Height: Medium

Sundance

A truly glorious celebratory mix of gleaming gold and yellow blooms shot with a touch of contrasting blue and flashes of white. Early flowering species, initially delicate and lower growing, give way to later taller varieties as the season progresses. This meadow is an ode to summer that changes and unveils itself across the season.



Sow Time: Spring

Sow Rate: 3g sqm

Height: Medium

Dragonfly

With inspiration coming from the iridescent dragonflies that we love to encourage into our gardens, this meadow offers an unusual combination of purples and yellows with orange and ivory tones. As the different species of the mix come to the fore across the season, you can expect to see ever-changing successional colours that bring energy and excitement to this fabulous meadow.



Sow Time: Spring

Sow Rate: 3g sqm

Height: Medium

Spearmint

Our latest addition to the Pictorial Meadow annual meadow seed mix range. Full of fresh colours and shades, a refreshing feeling meadow to cool you on a hot summer's day. Minty greens, soft creams, frosty whites and more than a little flash of lime. Spearmint provides a beautiful contrast when grown alongside some of the hotter coloured meadow mixes in our range.



Sow Time: Spring

Sow Rate: 3g sqm

Height: Medium

New Product

Pastel

This delightful colour themed 'strawberries and cream' mix is the perfect choice for those of us who don't like yellows. Throughout its long flowering season, you can expect whites and pinks with just a little scattering of bright blue and other pastels. As we enter autumn, this meadow continues to impress with intense pink and pastel colours that go on and on.



Sow Time: Spring

Sow Rate: 3g sqm

Height: Tall

Velvet

Velvet is a meadow for lovers of the dark and dramatic. Deep, rich purples and blood-red combine with shapely and ornate poppy heads. Further interest is brought to the meadow with eruptions of russet and gold, and contrast added with just a touch of surprisingly sparkly pinks.



Sow Time: Spring

Sow Rate: 3g sqm

Height: Medium

Contrasting

Lovely interlocking blocks of colour offer bold, contrasting combinations that make this one of our most distinctive meadow mixes. You can expect intense oranges and reds, combining beautifully with blue and purple components. A light smattering of other colours brings additional seasonal change and visual interest. Contrasting is a very dependable mix for all locations.



Sow Time: Spring

Sow Rate: 3g sqm

Height: Medium

Cornfield

A pure mix of traditional British native annual wildflowers, this meadow is ideal for those sites where it might be inappropriate to introduce garden cultivars or non-native species. Reminiscent of cornfields and country lanes, this meadow is especially pretty especially in its main flowering period of June through to August and is abundant with favourites such as cornflower and poppy.



Sow Time: Spring

Sow Rate: 3g sqm

Height: Medium

Spotlight

Meadows at Manor Lodge



Since the middle ages, Sheffield Manor Lodge has played a significant part in the history of Sheffield and grew to be a major Tudor seat of power in the 16th century, famous for serving as a site of imprisonment of Mary Queen of Scots.



The meadows at Manor Lodge delight visitors of all ages, providing the perfect background for photos.

Today, Manor Lodge is a busy visitor attraction offering a wide range of activities, events and experiences for a diverse group of audiences. The site hosts school visits, historical re-enactments, family and seasonal events and is the venue and setting for an increasing number of wedding parties.

For several years now, the team at Manor Lodge have worked closely with Pictorial Meadows to create unique experiences for their visitors using meadows and naturalistic planting. "For our younger visitors, the meadows allow us to run events that help introduce them to the natural world – our nature discovery trails have quickly become a favourite with families," says Juliet, Visitor Manager, "Our pollinators education session is extremely popular with schools and with the meadows, it's easy to bring to life on-site".

"The meadows have also been instrumental in our ability to grow our wedding offer with romantic settings in abundance almost everywhere you look" Juliet continues, "They provide a stunningly beautiful backdrop for couples to create memories that will last a lifetime".

Manor Lodge now boasts one of the largest collections of Pictorial Meadows in the country with both annual displays and perennial meadows, each with its own character, form and structure. The ease of establishing and maintaining these meadows allows for the team at Manor Lodge to create wonderful, floriferous spaces, without the high level of intensive management that would typically be required to maintain these for more traditional flower displays, and to always provide visitors with beautiful, colourful surprises on each and every visit.

Perennial Meadows

Pictorial Perennials are available in eleven beautifully designed seed mixes. Whilst more effort is needed for the initial establishment than Annuals, these meadows go on to create unique and long-lived displays.





Introduction

Pictorial Perennials are expertly designed to bring together carefully balanced mixes of mostly perennial species, growing, changing, and surprising for many years with impactful colour and interesting forms and textures.

Exactly how your meadow will look over time will depend on location and the effort and expertise you put into establishing and managing it. Every seed sown perennial meadow is unique.

Where you want to take on a more direct approach, really nurturing the first-year establishment and keeping weeds to a minimum, expect a style that looks more like an informal herbaceous border.

With the minimal input of effort, you can expect wild grasses and plants to infringe and the look will become increasingly more like a flower-rich countryside verge.

With every Pictorial Perennial mix, you can expect flowering from the very first summer season from many of the shorter-lived but happy self-seeders. Gradually over 3–4 years these will be overtaken by the more robust long-lived flowering plants but will spontaneously reappear in gaps, edges and disturbed ground to add seasonal magic to your ever-changing landscape.

As with all our meadow solutions, the seed mix must be sown into soil which has been thoroughly cleared of all weeds and prepared as a seedbed. Seed can be sown from September through to May.

Prices

20g	£39	250g	£295
50g	£75	500g	£480
100g	£130	1kg	£750



“ This meadow buzzes all summer long...”



*Feature Product*

Moody Blues

A spellbinding mix of cool and elegant blues, mauves, and striking purples are brought together with whites and creams. The fantastic variety of blue shades included throughout this mix make it particularly attractive to bees, and this meadow buzzes all summer long. Since its introduction in 2020, Moody Blues has quickly become a favourite of everyone here at Pictorial Meadows.

Sow Time:
September – May

Sow Rate: 2g sqm

Height: Medium



Cottage Garden

A tall, dramatic and colourful long season meadow that was initially designed to be sown over pure brick rubble on housing demolition sites but finds itself equally at home in garden soils. This meadow offers fantastic variety and is jam-packed full of species that work wonderfully together, providing drama and colour from early spring to right through to late autumn.



Sow Time: September – May

Sow Rate: 2g sqm

Height: Tall

Pollinator Lawn

Our lowest growing meadow mix, Pollinator Lawn will happily thrive just about anywhere, but is the perfect flowering lawn solution on limey, more alkaline, free-draining soils. Plenty of flowers to enjoy through the year but especially rich in spring pollen and nectar supply – providing an essential food source for bees and other pollinators. This is a meadow that responds exceptionally well to additional midseason cuts, a management technique that can help to promote fresh foliage and flowers much later in the year and keep the overall height of the display to a more distinctive lawn like level.



Sow Time: September – May

Sow Rate: 2g sqm

Height: Low

Tuscan Hills

Inspired by the sun-drenched hillsides of Tuscany, this meadow mix will bring the warmth and drama of a southern European meadow landscape to your outdoor spaces. Using an impressive palette of vibrant, warm colours and varied structure, this meadow also includes some beautiful ornamental grasses. These help to bring a softer, impressionistic look, and as the season progresses, they go on to provide exciting structure and texture as the final autumn flowers fade away.



Sow Time: September – May

Sow Rate: 2g sqm

Height: Medium

Lime Light

A brand new addition to our perennial meadow seed mixes, Lime Light, shines bright for lovers of subtle colour and forms. Whites, greys, creams and lime greens are dominant, artfully accented with flashes of copper, orange, red and bronze to give seasonal variation. This is a medium height meadow for average soils which will provide a restful complement to other more exuberant colour themed meadows. As with many of our mixes, this meadow also provides a fantastic source of cut flowers throughout the flowering season and a great source of seed for our birds later in the year.



Sow Time: September – May

Sow Rate: 2g sqm

Height: Medium

Woodland Edge

Easy to establish and an absolute joy in terms of impact and colour, especially through the spring and summer seasons. Designed specifically for areas with light dappled shade, this meadow is also lovely sown along hedge lines and north-facing walls. Colours tend towards shades of pinks and purples but with plenty of surprises in there. From ground cover up to tall emergents, this meadow has an intricate species selection that ensures that as the season moves on your display will continue to delight and develop its own unique character each year.



Sow Time: September – May

Sow Rate: 2g sqm

Height: Tall

Waters Edge

This meadow balances a combination of spring, summer and autumn species which either thrive or tolerate living in moist and waterlogged soils. Throughout the year, this meadow retains strong form and structure but quickly develops drifts of colour and spikes of drama as individual species settle and spread in their preferred soil moisture conditions.



Sow Time: September – May

Sow Rate: 2g sqm

Height: Tall

Native Meadow

A traditional, subtle-looking meadow designed exclusively using dependable British native wildflowers. Native Meadow is a composition designed to delight and demonstrate to the world how beautiful our British Meadows can be. A long-flowering mix but with the predominant display from June to August. Native Meadow thrives in all soil types, but in more fertile soils a midsummer 'hay cut' can also be carried out to introduce further diversity and to benefit from some repeat late summer flowering.



Sow Time: September – May

Sow Rate: 2g sqm

Height: Medium

Pictorial Skyline

We developed this lovely flowery rooftop meadow to provide a fantastic seed-sown meadow solution suitable for all green roofs. The meadow offers a well-balanced mix of flowering perennials and very fine ornamental grasses that will produce visual interest for much of the year. The species selected establish without the need to irrigate and will continue to develop in the continually stressed environment of a rooftop. This mix is also a great choice as a low growing designed meadow for extremely low fertility soils.



Sow Time: September – May

Sow Rate: 2g sqm

Height: Low

Turkish Delight

A very reliable long season, richly coloured flowering meadow designed to give outstanding performance on normal fertility soils. Colour combinations change almost weekly as the year unfolds. The mix is an absolute haven for wildlife, from early pollination through to the generous provision of abundant late autumn seed heads. As the meadow evolves this mix in particular will develop a form most resembling an informal, but very low maintenance herbaceous border.



Sow Time: September – May

Sow Rate: 2g sqm

Height: Medium

Persian Carpet

A real impressionist Pictorial Meadow combining more of the dainty, fine-leaved species with some architectural shapes and foliage for contrast. Another very long season flowering meadow, with complex and subtle colour combinations throughout the year. Use on the more freely draining and lower nutrient soils. This mix is also perfect for chalk and limestone areas. Neater and shorter than some of the other meadows, this mix is also perfect for path sides, central reservations and narrow verges.



Sow Time: September – May

Sow Rate: 2g sqm

Height: Medium

Feature Product

Floral Fields

A brand new range, we currently offer Floral Fields in two fantastic designs. We developed this range specifically for those who have extensive, field-scale gardens or outdoor spaces.



A colourful floral fields landscape merging effortlessly with its surroundings

They are perfect for anyone wanting a meadow landscape with a traditional feel that will merge effortlessly with the surrounding countryside, that still contains that 'Pictorial' difference.

These meadows are well suited to areas that will receive only the minimum of establishment care or long-term management. Our mixes combine a 'nurse crop' of fast-growing annual and biennial species that give immediate impact and a level of protection against invading weed seeds. By the end of

the first year, these will have given way to some extremely durable and robust long-lived wildflowers in carefully designed proportions.

An excellent choice too for specifiers working on new developments where topsoil use is going to be minimised and the substrate either left as largely subsoil or a manufactured very low fertility soil is to be used. In these circumstances, expect the establishment to be much slower.

Prices Per Kilo **£650**



Case Study

Meadows in the Sky



For more than 15 years, Pictorial Meadows has been championing the growth of green roofs across the UK. At our meadow development facility, we installed our first green roofs atop our buildings in 2005. We went on to develop our expertise across multiple private and public sector projects across the UK.

It wasn't long before we made our signature Pictorial Skyline green roof specific meadow seed mix available to the public, with the specialist green roof meadow turf, Botanical Skyline, coming later.

Green roofs are not 'rocket science', but they are easy to get wrong. We worked with Professor Nigel Dunnett and the University of Sheffield Green Roof Centre to help us better understand the relationship between the plants, the unique growing medium (substrate), and the way water moves between them.

Roofs are a harsh and unpleasant environment for many plants, so only the most drought-resistant and resilient species are suitable. With a sole focus on these requirements, a green roof can look rather disinteresting. In designing our mixes, our horticultural experts at Pictorial Meadows also wanted to provide colour to give visual impact and make species selections to maximise pollinating potential, supporting biodiversity in what is a desert-like environment.

The result was our specially formulated blend of plants which includes 'traditional' green roof plants from the genus of succulent *Sedum*, species originating in the dry grasslands of Europe, and hardy colonists from the Alpine slopes.

This blend provides changing visual interest across a long season and with excellent pollen and nectar availability. Using a green roof in place of a traditional roof brings many different benefits including reducing rainwater runoff; providing a cooling effect in warm weather; reducing noise transfer (i.e. rain hammering); and reducing of the urban heat island effect.

Green roofs can make a difference, whether they are just a few square meters on a bin store or garden shed or many meters on large industrial buildings. Every roof is different due to its location, aspect, altitude and any shadowing, so you can expect your green roof to develop its own unique character, that is all part of the enjoyment.



Spotlight

Grey to Green

This past year we have all learned to be ever more appreciative of our outdoor spaces. As our local authorities, town planners, and landowners look to the future, great design and innovative meadow-like landscapes have the power to transform our city environments.

Such an opportunity was seized with both hands by the team at Sheffield City Council as they planned a major development of areas of the city centre, retrofitting it with a multifunctional green space – walkable by people, supporting nature, and easing flood risk within the city.

Recognising the environmental challenges inherent with new construction, SCC was keen to implement a Sustainable Urban Drainage System. This system, dubbed 'Grey to Green', aims to mimic natural processes by allowing water runoff to spill into a dished landscape known as a swale, in this case, made from one of our specially designed soils and planted to provide colour and interest year-round.

Alongside reducing runoff, the SuDS scheme also needed to increase local biodiversity, provide improvements to air pollution through multi-layered planting, achieve urban cooling through increased tree planting, and treat contaminated water (which can contain potential microplastics) passing through it.

This is a tall order for any ordinary topsoil, and so with our specialism in naturalistic planting Pictorial Meadows were approached to provide an engineered soil or substrate that would best support

these requirements. Our soils team then created a modified form of our specialist green roof substrate.

Locally quarried crushed sandstone gave the mix bulk and solidity whilst also absorbing energy from water runoff and enabling the natural breakdown of pollutants. A high proportion of crushed stone contributed to a weed-free and easily maintained surface, supporting the establishment of the new plants.

Another element of this unique soil mix was British Standard compost from green waste. For plants in the scheme, the compost component is most important as it provides the range of plant nutrients needed, whilst releasing these slowly. Crucially, it retained water for plant growth, gave the soil the necessary structure for root growth, and promoted soil microbiota. This was balanced against the standard soil-forming components of sand, silt and clay, which are essential to promote nutrient availability to plants and provide an optimal soil structure.

This innovative approach to urban water-management has become recognised as an exemplar of what can be achieved and is now regularly visited by landscaping and ecology professionals from around the world seeking inspiration.

Spotlight

Soils



At Pictorial Meadows, we pride ourselves on being experts in meadows and naturalistic planting. Through our extensive research and development projects, we have sought to understand every element that might contribute to establishing interesting and innovative meadow landscapes.



Our specialist substrates are prepared on our site using high proportions of materials from recycled green waste, and are suited to a variety of uses.

A vital component of a successful meadow is the soil or substrate on which it is grown. Along with our partner company, the not-for-profit Green Estate CIC, we have developed our range of specialist soils for specific uses. Our range of soils now include those for flower meadows, green roofs, and tree pits.

Our soils team also have the expertise and experience to create bespoke soils to specification

to ensure a perfect match with your project, and with a short-conversation about requirements, will be able to prepare a soil that meets these exactly.

Available in sizes from 25-litre bags right up to full lorry loads, you'll find more information about our soil services on our website.



How to Buy

All our meadow products are available to buy online via our website at **PictorialMeadows.co.uk**. If you prefer, you can also place your order by phoning us on **01142 677 635**. We're open **8am – 4pm, Monday to Friday**.

Want to Learn More?

The world of meadows is an exciting one, and there's plenty to discover. If you want to learn more, there's lots of ways to do so.

Why not attend one of our weekly 'Introduction to Meadows' live online training sessions. Delivered by our Technical Director, Jonathan Wild. These webinars give an opportunity to look in depth at the differences between the meadow types, learn about some of the best practice technique for establishing and maintaining meadows, and ask any questions you might have. To book onto one of these sessions, please visit our website.

Come and visit us! Pictorial Meadows is based on a 40-hectare site located just 5 minutes away from Sheffield Train Station. We run regular open days throughout the summer giving you a chance to explore our ever-changing meadow landscapes, see how we have integrated meadows into a variety urban settings, and discuss your projects with our meadow specialists.

Visit **PictorialMeadows.co.uk** to check upcoming open day dates.

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