

# Meadow Creation

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Marches Meadow Group





Principles of (hay)  
meadow creation are  
the same at all scales  
from fields...  
to patches of lawn

Photo John Bacon



## Above: Poppies and Cornflowers

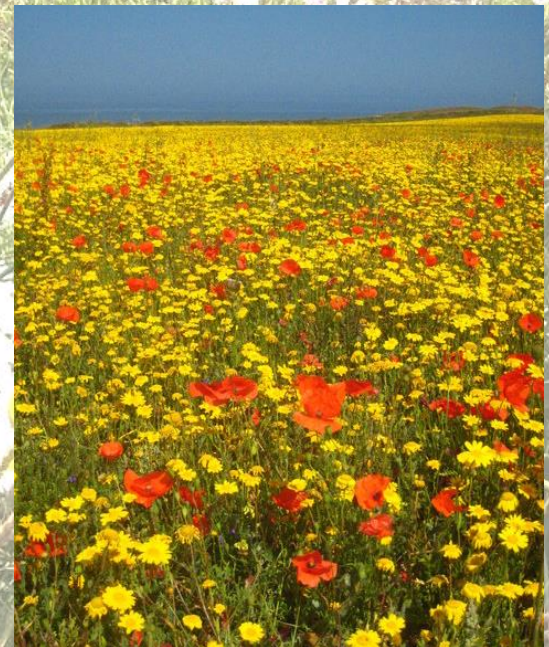
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## Top right: Corn Cockle

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## Bottom right: Poppies and Corn Marigolds at West Pentire

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# Yellow (or Hay) Rattle



Photo Beverley White



# Hay Meadow Cycle



Spring: hay meadow closed up (no grazing)

Mid-summer cut for hay



Winter: grazed if not too wet ± farmyard manure

Late summer /autumn: 'aftermath' grazed



Seed  
harvesting  
by hand  
and by  
machine



Marches  
Meadow  
Group's  
seed  
harvester



# Green Hay Technique



1. Cut and remove hay on recipient site



2. Harrow or scarify recipient site



4. Spread green hay thinly

3. Cut green hay on donor site and transport to recipient site

5. Allow green hay to dry so that seeds drop









**Eyebright**  
(*Euphrasia nemerosa*)

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**Yellow  
Rattle**

First year after  
treatment (if present  
at donor site)



**Fairy Flax** (*Linum  
carthaticum*)

Keen of Hamar  
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Later years (if present at donor site)



Cowslip



Common Spotted Orchid



Greater Butterfly Orchid

Photograph by Simon Cooter

# Meadow Creation

Ian Trueman & Peter Millett (2003) suggested a green hay protocol consisting of 35 bullet points.

The last bullet point is...

Manage your meadow for 1,000 years.

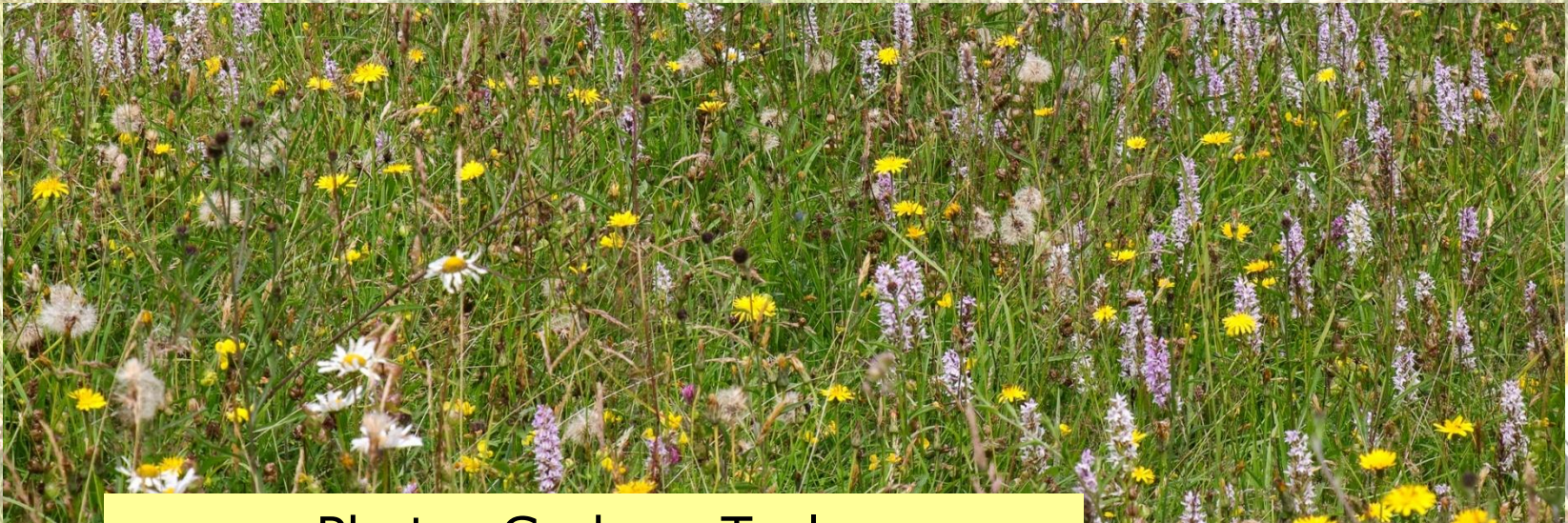


Photo: Graham Taylor