



Top Ten Wildflowers for Your Garden

Native wildflowers are more often known as 'weeds' in our gardens and some are prolific self-seeders or spreaders that will quickly take over your garden and crowd out other plants. But, properly chosen, wildflowers can add colour and interest to your garden and attract wildlife as all produce nectar and pollen for our native bees, butterflies and other insects.

If you suffer from pests and/or diseases in your garden you will also find that native wildflowers will be more resistant to them than non-native plants.

Below are ten of my favourite native wildflowers that I think are definitely garden-worthy for their flowers and can be controlled quite easily with timely dead-heading (cutting off flower heads as soon as the flowers go brown) for perennials or pulling up the whole plant after flowering for annuals.

If you're not sure which plants are 'wild' or not in your garden my recommended plant identification books are:

Wildflowers of Britain and Northern Europe, David Sutton, Kingfisher Publications, 1988

Complete British Wild Flowers, Paul Sterry, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, 2006

If you would like to introduce wildflowers into your garden you can buy small plants or seeds from

Landlife's Wildflower Shop online

<http://www.wildflower.org.uk/>

or visit

The National Wildflower Centre
Court Hey Park,
Roby Road,
Knowsley,
Liverpool, L16 3NA

<http://www.nwc.org.uk/>

Common Name	Botanical name/Height	Comments	Photograph
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i> 10-20cm high	Pale yellow flowers in March - May provide a good pollen source and compliment crocuses and daffodils. This perennial will spread slowly by seed and expanding its clump. A low growing plant covered by taller summer perennials in a border.	
Ragged Robin	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i> 20cm – 50cm	Delicate, deeply divided pink petals flowering from May to July prefers moist soil with sun. This perennial plant naturally occurs in damp meadows. Slow to spread it would complement the front of borders.	
Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i> 20-90cm high	This familiar perennial grows in woodland and hedgerows and has a long flowering period from May to July. This plant will spread slowly, but dead-head to restrict seedlings.	
Water Avens	<i>Geum rivale</i> 20cm – 60cm	Prefers moist soil and partial shade or sun. This perennial plant will form a large clump; flowering on tall purple stems with pale orange/pink petals in May – July. Control by dead-heading the flowers as soon as they go brown.	

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Wood Anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i> 6 – 30cm high	Low growing, delicate white flowers with divided leaves appears in March – May. Prefers partial shade and moist soil in a woodland setting. The flowers close when sunlight is low.	
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> Will reach 1m to 1.5m in height	Familiar native plant that occurs naturally as purple or white spikes of flowers from May to July. Thrives in partial shade or sun. This biennial (living 2 years) will spread naturally through self-seeding. To restrict its spread either dead-head when the flowers are over or pull up seedlings.	
Sweet Cicely	<i>Myrrhis odorata</i> 60 – 100cm	Delicate, frothy white flowers in May and June with fern-like leaves. The whole plant is edible; the seedpods and leaves have an aniseed-like flavour and can be eaten raw. This perennial thrives in partial shade and sun.	
Dog violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i> 2 – 6cm	Low growing, delicate purple flowers in April and May will grow in paving cracks or the edge of borders. This perennial will spread through self-seeding but can easily be controlled through pulling up the small plants.	

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Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis</i> <i>spp.</i> 15 – 30cm	Scented, pale blue flowers in May. Provide early pollen for bees and look great with tulips. This annual can be controlled by pulling up the whole plant after the flowers are over to stop it self-seeding too much.	
Cowslip	<i>Primula</i> <i>veris</i> 10 – 25cm	Yellow flowers in April/May provide a good pollen source and compliment daffodils. This perennial will spread slowly by seed and expanding its clump. A low growing plant covered by taller summer perennials in a border. Dead-head to stop too much self-seeding.	