

Hay meadow glossary

After-grazed — Once the grass has started to re-sprout it is usually grazed by livestock, this is termed after-grazed or aftermath grazing, and helps to control the grasses that can be more vigorous than wild flowers.

Biffa Award — The Biffa Award is part of the landfill communities fund, giving grants to projects that seek to improve their local communities.

Biological value — Is a measure of the living organisms (i.e. invertebrates, birds, wild flowers and grasses) within a particular area.

Coronation Meadow — A meadow in every county to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Coronation. Eycott Hill is a recipient meadow.

Donor seed — Seed which has been harvested from another meadow and donated.

Green hay — Harvested wild flowers and grasses just as they are shedding seed and still 'green'. The green hay is taken from a species-rich donor site and quickly transferred to a species-poor recipient site, where it is spread allowing the seed to drop.

Hectare — A non-SI metric unit of area equal to a square with 100-metre sides, primarily used in the measurement of land.

Low-input farming — A type of farming which optimises the use of the land (i.e. on farm resources such as size, vegetation and water sources) and has minimal production inputs (i.e. off-farm resources such as fertilisers and machinery).

Nutrient enriched — Is where the field has been enriched with fertilisers, such as animal manure, to increase crop productivity.

Pasture — Land covered with grass or other low plants suitable for grazing animals, such as sheep or cattle.

Plug plants or plugs — Are young plants, either seedlings or cuttings, grown in single units in trays.

Power harrowed — A power harrow is a piece of machinery attached to the rear of a tractor. The power harrow finely breaks up the soil, refining and evenly distributing it over the entire working width to create a perfect seed bed.

Quadrat — A square frame of a known area used for sampling the abundance and distribution of species.

Rear discharge muck spreader — A trailer towed behind a tractor with a rotating mechanism driven by the tractor's power take-off. The green hay is loaded into the trailer and then spread across the field.

Transect — Is a line across a habitat or part of a habitat, simply marked out by a rope or walking in a straight line. A quadrat is placed at regular intervals to record the species.

Wild flower glossary

Filigree — Delicate and intricate leaves.

Flowerhead — A tight cluster of small flowers that are arranged so that the whole looks like a single flower.

Fruiting head — Is the fruiting part of the flower which contains the seeds.

Grooved stems — A stem that is marked with ridges or furrows.

Lobbed leaves — Leaves with several distinct protrusions, either rounded or pointed.

Palmate — A leaf with veins radiating out from a central point, resembling spread out fingers pointing away from the palm.

Perennial — A plant whose life span extends over several years.

Rosette — A circular arrangement of leaves.

Semi-parasite — A plant which obtains some of its food from a host but also undergoes photosynthesis.

Serrated — Toothed with asymmetrical teeth pointing forward; like the cutting edge of a saw.

Toothed leaves — Edges of leaves which have a pointy appearance, they can be single-toothed, double-toothed or wavy-toothed.

Tuber — An enlarged stem or root that stores nutrients.

Umbels — Many flowers arising from the same point on the stalk to form a flat-topped umbrella shape. These are the flowers of the Carrot Family (umbellifers).