

Age
3-7



Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew

Grow your own native UK wildflowers

Since the mid-twentieth century, species-rich habitats in the UK such as meadows and grasslands have been destroyed at an alarming rate. Grow Wild and the UK Native Seed Hub are RBG Kew's response to this challenge, helping to restore the diversity of native plants, including wildflowers. You can help too with this spring planting activity.

You will need:



Newspaper



Cylindrical object i.e. small cup or bottle



Scissors (with adult supervision)



Compost



UK native wildflower seeds

- 1 As a family, go for a walk in your local woodland or park, or visit Kew Gardens or Wakehurst. Use your senses to explore some different signs of spring – you could download our Spring Spotter Sheet to help you!

Did you know? From April, native bluebells carpet Kew's Natural Area, providing insects with an early source of nectar. Bees love their blue, bell-shaped flowers!

- 2 When you get home, it's time to make some eco-friendly plant pots! Cut strips of newspaper and roll them tightly around a cup or bottle, aiming for four to six layers per pot. Fold the paper over the base so there are no gaps then push down firmly onto a flat surface.

★ **Art idea:** Why not decorate your pots with pictures?

- 3 Fill each paper pot with compost and sow a few seeds inside. Water well and place on a sunny windowsill.

★ **Top tip:** Keep a diary to chart the growth of your flowers. You could take a daily photo or measurement.

Share your photos @kewgardens



Taking it forwards:

Wildflowers won't survive in a cramped space for long. Why not plant a patch of soil or a larger pot – it's a great option, especially for balconies and paved areas. Then sit back and observe the many visiting insects.

Find out more at kew.org/science/our-science/projects/uk-native-seed-hub and growwilduk.com