

FACTSHEET: BIODIVERSITY AND GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT



BIODIVERSITY

What is it?

THE VARIETY OF PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE IN THE WORLD

Why is it important?

IT PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN SUPPORTING BASIC NATURAL SERVICES WE ALL DEPEND UPON, e.g.,

- Food
- Fresh water
- Clean air

THE LAW

ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016: All public authorities are required, when undertaking their functions in Wales, to seek to MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY wherever possible.

GRASSLAND & BIODIVERSITY

Species rich grassland can be **BIODIVERSE** supporting a huge range of wildlife

97% loss of wildflower meadows **LOST** since World War II

41% on insect species **DECLINING** over the last decade

7 bee species are already **EXTINCT** in Wales with many more under threat

A CHANGE IN CUTTING REGIME

Re-creates some of the wildflower meadows that have been lost



Helps maintain and enhance biodiversity



Improves health and well-being by bringing people closer to nature

TYPES OF WILDFLOWER MEADOW

ANNUAL

Colourful

Short lived

Needs resources and a high level of management

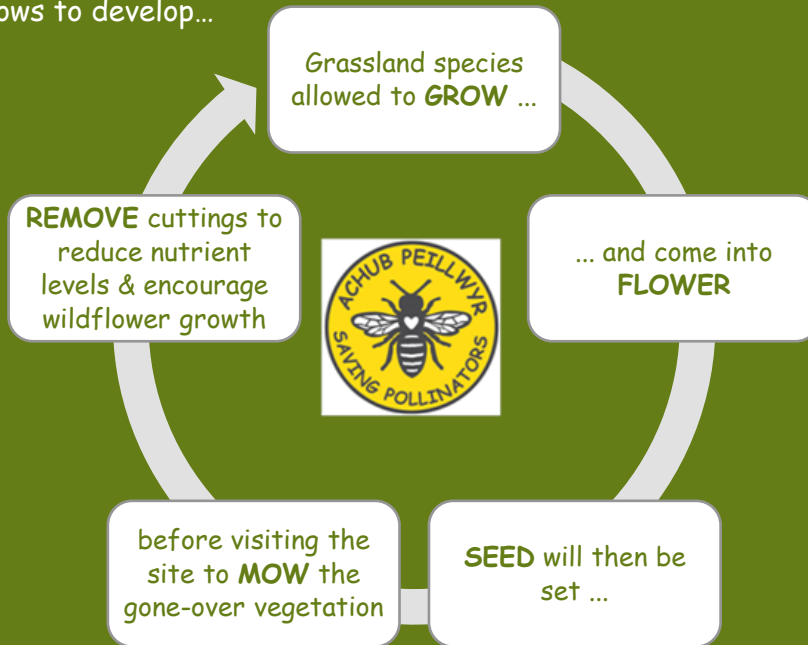
PERENNIAL

Equally colourful

Provides colour throughout the season

Self generating with a low level of management

REGIME: cutting the grass **LESS** often and **LATER** in the year will allow natural perennial wildflower meadows to develop...



DIFFERENT TYPES OF GRASSLAND REQUIRE DIFFERENT MANAGEMENT



RAISING LOCAL AWARENESS



Signage



Social media



Public awareness