Flowering headland

Description of the measure

Flowering seed mixtures can be cultivated in arable areas that are heavily stressed by the turning of agricultural machinery and consequently have poorer yields.

Sowing

- Annual flowering mixtures with regional seeds or legume mixtures of at least 4 species
- Preparation of a fine-grained but firm seedbed
- Sowing with a combined/simple seed drill or fertilizer spreader
- Must not be sown too densely for light-demanding species
- Rolling the seeds improves soil contact and germination
- Sowing in spring (end of April - mid-May) across the entire width of the headland (approx. 6 - 15 m)
- No use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Sowing directly after cultivation or after weed control to avoid trampling in root crop fields

Maintenance

- Headlands can be driven on during normal cultivation of the areas
- Only mow the area if weeds are too high or in the case of legume mixtures (then only after flowering)
- Minimum interval between maintenance work on ditches and bodies of waters of 8 weeks
- Ideally, the flowering mixture should be maintained beyond the cultivation period until winter or even sown with perennial flowering mixtures (see measure sheet „Flowering insectary strips „)

Effects on biodiversity

Flowering mixtures provide flowers, nectar and pollen for wild bees, bumblebees and other insects. The flowering headland serves as a refuge for wild animals and insects during agricultural work and field birds and amphibians can also use it as a feeding area and benefit from the absence of pesticides.

Further recommendations

Areas with rare arable weeds or with a potential risk of problematic weeds are not suitable for growing seed mixtures.

Further positive effects

Flowering headlands contribute to biotope connectivity if they are designed in such a way that they link forest edges, field edge structures and meadows. Furthermore, soil structure and humus accumulation in the headland are favoured. In species-rich mixtures, different root formation, depth and exudation contribute to the promotion of soil life. In addition, the water storage capacity of the soil in the headland is improved and the field is visually enhanced.

For further reading: www.franz-projekt.de/uploads/Downloads/Massnahmen/Ma%C3%9Fnahmenblatt_Bl%C3%BChendes%20Vorgewende_mit%20Bild.pdf

Sources: naturschutzbund.at/files/NATUR%20VERBINDET/Bluehstreifen1.pdf • bluehende-landschaft.de/handlungsempfehlung/insektenfreundliche-bluehstreifen • www.kiepenkerl.de/rundum-wildacker/bluehstreifen