



# ColourMax 5 - BumbleBird Bonanza 100% Annual Flower Seed Mix

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## Prepare the Ground

BumbleBird Bonanza Annual Flower Seed Mix performs well in most soil types. For best results sow into bare soil after clearing all existing plants and weeds from the area.

Cultivate the ground to a depth of 10cm to relieve compaction and create a fine level tilth, free from obstructions (to allow for mowing at a later stage). Finish the seedbed by treading or lightly rolling the area, so that it is firm enough to stand on without leaving indentations.

Where weeds have been prevalent, allow a flush of weeds to germinate and remove these before sowing. In areas of high fertility, it may be necessary to remove the topsoil and sow into the subsoil. High nutrient soils encourage weeds and fast growing grasses which may outcompete the flowers in this mixture.

BSA Annual Flower Seed Mix can be used to overseed into existing grassland, provided the sward comprises only fine leaved grasses and does not include ryegrass, agricultural species or weeds. Cut the grass as short as possible and thoroughly scarify or rake the ground to remove any thatch, moss and other debris from the area.

## Sowing

BumbleBird Bonanza Annual Flower Seed Mix can be sown in March or November. Spring and autumn provide ideal conditions as moisture and warmth are in good supply. If overseeding into grass, it is best to sow during autumn when grass growth has slowed down.

Distribute seed with a handheld or pedestrian spreader, at the recommended sowing rate of 3g/sqm. Mix the flower seeds with an inert carrier (such as sharp sand), at a ratio of four parts sand to one part seed (by weight). This makes it easier to achieve an even distribution and also provides a visual marker, making it easier to see any missed patches and avoid seeding areas twice.

Regularly mix the seed when sowing, as seeds will naturally separate due to variations in size and weight.

Once sown, ensure good 'seed to soil' contact by lightly raking to a depth of 0.5cm or rolling the area. When overseeding this encourages the seeds to fall down to the ground underneath.

It is also possible to broadcast, drill or hydroseed this mixture for larger or hard to reach areas. However, broadcast spreading throws heavier seeds further so this may impact the distribution and when drilling, the seed must not be buried deeper than 0.7cm.

## Sowing Rate

The sowing rate of 3g/sqm is designed to produce optimum results. Reducing the sowing rate is likely to result in invasion from weed species. Increasing the sowing rate generally leads to reduced diversity as the more aggressive species will outcompete slower growing plants.

This rate also applies when overseeding into grassland as many seeds may fail to germinate due to the increased competition from the existing grasses, and some seeds not reaching the soil surface.

## Maintenance First Year

BumbleBird Bonanza contains annual species, which are fast to establish and flower. During the first year remove any weeds. Weed growth is common due to the action of disturbing the ground (rather than being caused by contaminated seed mixtures).

After flowering the plants will naturally die back over the winter. Allow the plants to run to seed in autumn then cut the area down using a scythe, strimmer or mower, leaving the cuttings for up to a week before clearing the area. This will allow them to dry and shed seeds back into the soil.

## Second Year

Depending on your sowing preference, cultivate the ground and reseed in September or March.

Over several years of reseeding, a rich seed bank will develop and simply disturbing the soil again in early spring will be sufficient to regenerate the flowers each year.



As members of Flora Locale, Boston Seeds follows a strict code of practice to ensure wildflower seed is of UK native origin and is harvested and grown responsibly to aid conservation and help protect native UK wild plants.



In BumbleBird Bonanza 19 of the flower species included are recognised by the Royal Horticultural Society as supporting many of the 1500 species of pollinating insects across the UK.

For information on this or any other mixtures in the Boston Seeds range, contact us on 01205 280 069 or email [info@bostonseeds.co.uk](mailto:info@bostonseeds.co.uk)