

Specialist Machinery & Services

Years of practical expertise in growing wildflowers has enabled us to develop a range of specialised methods and techniques that are available as part of the comprehensive package of services we can provide. These include:

Hydroseeding and Erosion Control;
Brush Harvesting.

Hydroseeding and Erosion Control

Hydroseeding is a unique method of seed sowing that creates the ideal growing environment for seed. Hydroseeding typically uses a blend of water, paper/wood, and biodegradable bonding material ('tackifier') to suspend the seed in a secure '3D' matrix. By creating the ideal growing environment, hydroseeding provides a more reliable method of ensuring successful germination and establishment of wildflowers.

Advantages of hydroseeding include:

- Quick, even and accurate coverage;
- Application at almost any time of year, including times when conventional sowing methods can't be used;
- Can be used in areas that are difficult or impossible for conventional machinery to access;
- Effective on steep gradients, providing erosion control on slopes, riverbanks, etc;
- Can also be used in conjunction with geotextiles for stabilisation on very steep slopes;
- Protects the seed after application, even during extremes of wet or dry weather.



3,500 litre hydroseeder

We have three hydroseeding machines:

3,500 litre machine for sowing larger areas;

2,500 litre machine also for large areas;

1,000 litre machine for sowing areas that may be inaccessible to standard horticultural machinery.

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How it works

A high pressure hose attached to the hydroseeding machine sprays a biodegradable mixture containing the seed and selected components onto the required area. This mixture can be tailored specifically to the needs of the site in question. For example, varying the ingredients of the blend can provide a stabilising mixture for erosion control on steep gradients.

1,000 litre hydroseeder



Mixing components for hydroseeding



2,500 litre hydroseeder sowing steep sloping area

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Hydroseeding provides a more successful sowing method for the following reasons:

- By providing the ideal growing environment for the seed, quicker, more successful germination and establishment is provided;
- As the mixture suspends the seed in a secure matrix, less seed is lost to runoff in wet weather;
- Conversely, the moisture retaining properties of the blend mean that the mix can be applied during very dry conditions;
- As such, hydroseeding can be applied at virtually any time of year, without adverse effect on seed germination.

Erosion control on a steep bank



Before hydroseeding

After hydroseeding

After germination

Brush Harvesting

Collection of native wildflower seed from approved local sources is an important part of our activities. As well as harvesting for individual species, we collect unique seed mixes from existing natural habitats for use in restoration and enhancement projects.

This unique machine works, not by cutting, but by gently removing seed using specially designed rotating brushes. As a result, donor species and invertebrates experience negligible impact. The machine is also typically pulled by a small, low-impact vehicle such as a quad or mini-tractor, causing the least amount of interference possible on the site.



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The harvester can collect from a range of habitats (e.g. meadows, heathlands, wetlands) and can be adjusted to collect from 10 cm up to 2 m in height, enabling individual species to be targeted more specifically. The harvester can cover up to 3 hectares per day and can produce a yield of up to 40 kg per day, depending on site conditions.



Using our specialised seed collection machinery, we are able to collect seed from existing habitats – wildflower meadows, nature reserves, etc. – for use in habitat creation projects. This provides a unique seed mix that contains many species of local flora not available commercially. The brush harvester has also recently been used to collect heather seed for regeneration trials.



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