

# MANY THANKS FOR OFFERING TO HELP PLANT WILDFLOWERS UNDER THE TREES ON YOUR STREET

## Step 1 – decide exactly which tree bases you are going to plant up now and which you're going to leave for later in the year

Although the tree bases on your road haven't been sprayed, the late start to this project and hot, dry weather in April means soil is likely to be hard, making it a tougher job to take out weeds before planting. Our wildflower seeds will also need some rain to germinate, so if it stays very dry you'll need to do a bit of watering to get them going in the first few weeks after planting.

With this in mind, if you're working by yourself or have a long road you might want to take a two-stage approach, planting some tree bases now (before mid May) and the rest in late summer (September to mid-October). If you decide just to plant a section, you need to tell us very specifically where it is as the rest will receive summer spraying prior to the second phase of planting in September/October.

To minimise the chances of the contractor making a mistake and spraying the wrong bit of road, you need to pick a really clear area, e.g.

- A section of road from one end to a specific house number or junction
- The whole of one side of a road (but not the other)
- The section of your street between two road junctions

## Step 2 – see if any neighbours will help (especially if your tree bases are very weedy as this is the time-consuming bit to do)

## Step 3 – do the planting **NB each bag of seeds has enough for 20m<sup>2</sup> (approx 20-25 tree pits)**

Across Wanstead, a number of tree pits are already 'adopted' so if they look like they're being tended by someone, just leave them alone. If they've previously been planted but aren't being cared for (ie with clumps of grass, dandelions etc) – or are unplanted...

- Remove weeds and grass using a hand fork or trowel (put waste in garden recycling)
- Churn up the surface of the soil a little
- Ensure soil is damp (water it yourself or do after rain)
- Sprinkle seed finely and evenly over the tree base – just a tiny amount!! ¼ of a teaspoon for each square metre (ie big tree base)
- Gently tread the seeds into the damp soil
- Don't add any compost or fertilizer – this will help grass to grow, not your flowers

## Step 4 – tell us exactly what you've done so that we can coordinate with the council (at wildwanstead@yahoo.com)

- The total number of tree bases you've planted
- Which part of your road you've planted now (and which you're planting in late summer if applicable)

## Step 5 – as we are attempting this rather late in the year, if it stays really dry, give the seeds some water a couple of times a week just to get them going and help them germinate

### What will grow?

We have kindly been provided with a specially formulated seed mix to use, donated by native plant specialist, [www.habitataid.co.uk](http://www.habitataid.co.uk). This contains a number of tough wildflower species that will bloom across the season and support a wide range of pollinating insects (Lady's Bedstraw, Musk Mallow, Ox-eye Daisy, Wild Carrot, Birdsfoot Trefoil, Wild Red Clover, Corn Marigold and Poppy). We should see a few flowers in 2018, although we won't get the full effect until Year 2 when all the species in the mix will hopefully flower.