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# Functional Skills Level 2

## ENGLISH

Paper 1 Reading

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**The source is taken from the following publication: National Geographic dated 9 July 2020 titled 'A beginner's guide to foraging for wild ingredients in the UK'.**



**Source C**

## 5 Benefits of a wildflower garden

By Katie Mortram

Wildflower gardens are growing in popularity as more people realise the benefits – not just for themselves, but for the environment too.

1. Wildflowers are native flowers that grow in the wild. Because of this, they're naturally tenacious and require minimal care. You may want to cut back your wildflowers in the late spring or early summer to encourage healthier growth. But, a wildflower garden is meant to look wild, so don't worry about keeping things neat and tidy.
  2. Wildflowers cost little to grow and maintain as seeds are affordable and widely available. They cost little once established due to the reduced maintenance. A wildflower garden could add natural beauty to your garden and reduce your costs.
  3. One of the great things about a wildflower garden is that it attracts pollinators. Your wildflower garden will supply the food to keep insects and animals abundant, which is good for nature as well as other plants.
- Wildflowers can provide food and shelter for birds too. Sparrows, doves and finches enjoy eating seeds. So, once your flowers have finished blooming in the autumn you can just leave the seed heads in place to supply a food source for hungry birds over the winter.
4. Wildflower gardens are beneficial because they support biodiversity. By growing wildflowers you're encouraging more diverse growth elsewhere. A wildflower garden takes in carbon dioxide to grow too, so you're also promoting a cleaner atmosphere.
  5. Finally, you can't underestimate the prettiness of a wildflower garden. There's a never-ending list of varieties to grow, leading to all sorts of colours and shapes. And when nature is left to itself, it can create a breathtaking display and introduce a more relaxed and peaceful atmosphere.



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