


ACTION FACT SHEET for ADVISORS

Establishment and increase of rare wild herbs

Goal	Reestablishment of rare wild herbs
Target group	Farmers who grow any kind of arable crop, especially cereal.
Description of the measure	<p>This measure aims on the reestablishment of rare wild herbs which do not exist in the seed bank of the soil anymore but occur in the surrounding area.</p> <p>On suitable sites, it should first be tried to let the target species establish itself by applying measures to support them, such as reduced seed density, drill gaps or abandonment of harrow. If, however, after two years target species did not settle on the plot, selected wild herbs should be sown in with autochthon seeding material or by soil transfer (origin of maximum of 50 km distance).</p> <p>Following measures need to be considered additionally depending on the target species, soil type and average soil quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No harrowing on at least 50 % of the field. ▪ Minor crop density or drill gaps on at least 20 % of the field. ▪ Moderate fertilization: on clay or moderate soils a maximum application of 150 kg N/ha within 5 years. ▪ No root crops in the crop rotation (with exceptions depending on the target species). ▪ At least 2 years of winter cereal in 5 years without catch crop. ▪ Maximum 2 years without conventional tillage. ▪ Sufficient time period with stubbles. <p>The implementation of this measure is usually supervised by advisors and/or local experts of the regional flora.</p>
Suitable sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preferably sites with low yields ▪ Site selection regarding the need of targeted wild herbs, as confirmed by local experts and/or advisors ▪ Sites with low occurrence of problem weeds
How a good implementation looks like	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishment of selected target species ▪ Increase in their abundance over the years
Effects on biodiversity (ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)	 <p>Support of endangered, mostly low-growing and concurrence weak wild herbs. Endangered species, which do not occur in the seed bank of the soil anymore, may not be able to establish themselves even under good praxis.</p>

Other positive effects/benefit for the farmer	
Indicator/key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Total size of area (ha) dedicated to this measure/managed as described above
Risk and further recommendations	<p>The objective of this measure cannot be achieved by normal flower mixtures. Instead, institutes, NGO's or local experts with knowledge about regional flora need to be consulted.</p> <p>Target species are low-growing, concurrence weak herbs, which therefore do not pose problems to arable crops even under increasing population numbers.</p> <p>For further information: www.schuzaecker.de; www.lfl.bayern.de;</p>
Timeframe (When to start a measure and anticipated time for implementation)	Dependent on target species and method applied.
Additional special resources/equipment/skills needed	This measure is usually applied by farmers with advanced species knowledge. Ideally, the farmer or advisor has the contacts to regional institutes. Elsewise, local nature conservation associations, agencies or Foundations can be consulted.
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ www.landwirtschaft-artenvielfalt.de ▪ www.lfl-bw.de/pb/,Lde/Startseite/Unsere+Themen/Ackerwildkrautaecker ▪ BUND Naturschutz in Bayern e.V. – Ackerwildkräuter fördern – Infos und Tipps für die landwirtschaftliche Praxis ▪ BfN-Skript 351 – Ackerwildkrautschutz – Eine Bibliographie - ▪ www.schutzaecker.de

Further information: [Knowledge Pool](#)

This Action Fact Sheet belongs to the training package for advisors of standard organisations and companies and was developed within the project LIFE Food & Biodiversity (Biodiversity in Standards and Labels of for the Food Industry). The main objective of the project is to improve the biodiversity performance of standards and sourcing requirements in the food industry by helping standard organisations to integrate efficient biodiversity criteria into their schemes and motivating food processing companies and retailers to include comprehensive biodiversity criteria into their sourcing guidelines.

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