

Guerilla Gardening

This term was originally coined to describe the actions of people who, having no garden of their own, decided to make use of unused spaces mainly in towns and cities. Vegetable growing in particular is very popular with urban guerrilla gardeners.

We are very lucky in Snape that most of us have at least a small amount of space in which we can grow things, so the term guerrilla gardening for us can be used in a different sense. We in **GreenSnape** aim to make the village a nicer place for people and wildlife and we can do this easily by following guerrilla gardening principles.

There are plenty of scraps of land in the village that are suitable for growing a few wildflowers (I think veg growing would be a step too far and not as good for wildlife!). If you have somewhere that is not obviously someone else's property, there is nothing to stop you spreading a few seeds and seeing how they grow. For example, I've planted quite a few snowdrops near our house on the narrow verge as you travel up towards Ladybird Nursery. They look great to us and are good early nectar for insects.

Just a few important guidelines:

- ! make sure that you are not taking over someone else's property.
- ! ensure that you are not compromising sight-lines for traffic.
- ! **use only seeds for native plant species, not "new, improved" garden varieties**, as the latter tend not to be good for insects and in any event belong in gardens. I've found that the most successful wildflower species round here tend to be oxeye daisies, cowslips in shady areas, primroses, violets, toadflax, wild carrot, red campion and white campion. You might have some other ideas.
- ! for bulbs, use single petal layer native snowdrop *galanthus nivali* and English bluebell not Spanish. Best bought in about a month's time "in the green".

There are many websites from which you can buy flower seeds, plus Amazon and eBay, and sorry for the repetition, **buy only seeds for native plant species**. For bulbs, I've found Boston Bulbs best. You could also gather a few seeds from plants once they've set seed around end of July onwards for most plants.

It's a great time of year to sow a few seeds and cross your fingers that they will come up. They don't always of course. And don't overlook suitable areas of your own garden, as insects don't care where the plants are. You might even turn over part of your lawn to wildflowers.

Good luck to you all!

Derek Walduck 21 March 2025