

Ecological infrastructures long-lasting in wildlife food resources

Goal	<p>To guarantee trophic resources for pollinators, bees, bumblebees and other insects.</p>
Short description of the measure	<p>Improvement of hedgerows and buffer strips in order to gain ecological complexity and food resources for wildlife during the maximum amount of time.</p> <p>This includes all kind of resources such as pollen, fruits as well as ecological niches for species and plants.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p>Pic. 1: Flower strips in an olive crop. The species richness of the floral strip and a sufficient width ensure the availability of food and shelter for the auxiliary fauna.</p> <p>Pic. 2: Buffer strip in an intensive tomato crop. In an intensive crop, the buffer strip brings richness and variety of habitats to the landscape.</p>
Timeframe <small>(When to start a measure and anticipated time for implementation)</small>	<p>Sown should be done in the most favorable conditions for germination, mainly in Autumn in the Mediterranean Regions, in colder regions, it's advisable to wait until the frozen periods finish, at the beginning of Spring. The main issue is to ensure a well-prepared seedbed consisting of friable moist soil, as the basis of a good sown.</p> <p>Sowings could be done every 2-3 years depending on the flowers species, always that we do not get the desired composition of species with natural regeneration.</p> <p>When punctual mowing is needed, it should take place as late as possible in the year in order to allow also late-flowering plants to ripen fruits (late September).</p>
How auditors can assess if the measure has been implemented in a good quality?	<p>Verify that the flowering and hedges mixture includes a variety of different species with different flowering periods and fruits.</p>
Additional information the auditor need for verification (if any)	<p>Important fact: Optical excellence and ecological excellence of flowering areas can be quite different. A certain amount of grass is tolerable.</p>

<p>Effects on bio-diversity (ecosystems, species, soil bio-diversity)</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shelter and food resources for wildlife. ▪ Semi-natural habitats with wild plants with diverse flowering periods that provides flowers, nectar, and pollen for wild pollinators honey bees and other insects. ▪ Habitat that supports useful macro- and microorganisms. ▪ Provision of hibernation habitat for insects in parts which retained over winter.
	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Breeding and foraging habitat for field birds such as partridge, corn bunting, quail. ▪ Provision of foraging habitat for birds in parts which retained over winter. ▪ Areas of refuge for reptiles.
<p>Indicator/key data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Length of hedges improved. ▪ Diversity of flowering species with different flowering dates. ▪ Diversity of fruit species with different fruit dates. ▪ N° of trees/shrubs/seeds planted.
<p>Reference</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ www.navarra.es/NR/rdonlyres/86815038-FE6D-404A-9A29-3C27FCCBF013/398080/SistemadeAltovalorNaturalCultivosmediterraneosenla.pdf ▪ http://awsassets.wwf.es/downloads/agricultura_donana.pdf

Further information: [Knowledge Pool](#)

This Action Fact Sheet belongs to the training package for auditors 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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