

Wildflowers in the Orchard

A number of growers have sown wildflower mixes in their orchards at times with the aim of providing food sources for pollinating and beneficial insects. It's no easy matter knowing which plants bring what benefit to the system. In practice it may not be the most important thing to select plants for specific purposes as working with principles of bio diversity, which maximises what lives in the ecosystem and allow the plants, insects and microbial life, that find the conditions that suit them , to thrive.



A close up of the seed mix Doug is sowing in the orchard

Doug Brown has been preparing a seed bed in the orchard and will be sowing a mix he has bought from Tauranga company Wildflower World (www.wildflowerworld.com). The seeds themselves look quite amazing, it will be interesting to follow their development and see how they do later on in the summer. He is also preparing a trial patch where Geoff Brunsten is trialling a specific mix of wildflower seeds. This could be an interesting subject for a field day later on in the season.

Kings seeds in Katikati also have wild flower mixes available. (www.kingsseeds.co.nz)

It is acceptable to both Bio Gro and AsureQuality to sow wild flower seed as long as it is has a letter from the supplier stating that they are not treated and that there are no GMO's and the grower gets prior approval. AsureQuality have a seed dispensation form on their website that can be download for this purpose.