



Asian hornet

CREATING A FLOWER MEADOW





4. Creating a flower meadow

Information for the teacher

The Asian hornet poses a threat to our pollinators, such as honeybees, bumblebees and hoverflies. As well as detecting and controlling Asian hornets, we can also help our pollinators by improving their habitat. A flower meadow provides food and shelter for a wide variety of pollinating insects. By creating a flower meadow with the class, pupils actively contribute to enhancing biodiversity at school and learn what plants need to grow.

Ideally, the meadow should be created in October or November. During this activity, pupils explore the site and learn about location, sunlight and teamwork. The shape and size of the flower meadow can be adapted to the site.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- World Orientation – Understanding plants, soil and biodiversity
- STEM – Inquisitive attitude: determining soil type
- Citizenship – Actively contributing to nature restoration





Activity



variable

In short

In this activity, pupils work together to create a small wildflower meadow to support biodiversity and pollinators in the school grounds. They learn how to prepare the soil, mark out the area, sow seeds and monitor the growth of the plants. In this way, they discover which factors are important for healthy flowers and pollinators.

Supplies

- 8 poles and 11 meters of rope
- Spade, shovel, rake
- Flower seeds
- **Optional:** bowl and spoon

Lesson structure

1. Preparation (1 to 2 weeks in advance)

- Buy biological flower seeds (for example via [Ecoflora - bloemenweiden](#))
- Choose a suitable spot together: sunny, quiet, not heavily used
- Remove the top 5 cm of turf with a spade or shovel
- Rake the soil flat and remove stones or roots
- Leave the soil to rest for a few weeks and then remove any weeds that appear (false seedbed)

2. Step 1: Marking out the flower bed

- Mark out the plot with poles and rope (approximately 8 m)
- Discuss with the pupils: what do flowers need? Why a sunny spot?
- Let the pupils measure: how big is 8 m²? What is the perimeter of our plot?

3. Step 2: Investigating soil texture (optional)

- Take three soil samples from different parts of your plot, mix them in a bowl and moisten slightly if very dry.
- Assess using the appendix: is it sand, loam or clay? What does that mean for plants?

4. Step 3: Sowing

- Mix flower seeds with some fine sand and sow evenly across your field
- Rake lightly or press down gently (seeds must remain on the surface)
- Do not add fertiliser; a flower meadow grows best in poor soil

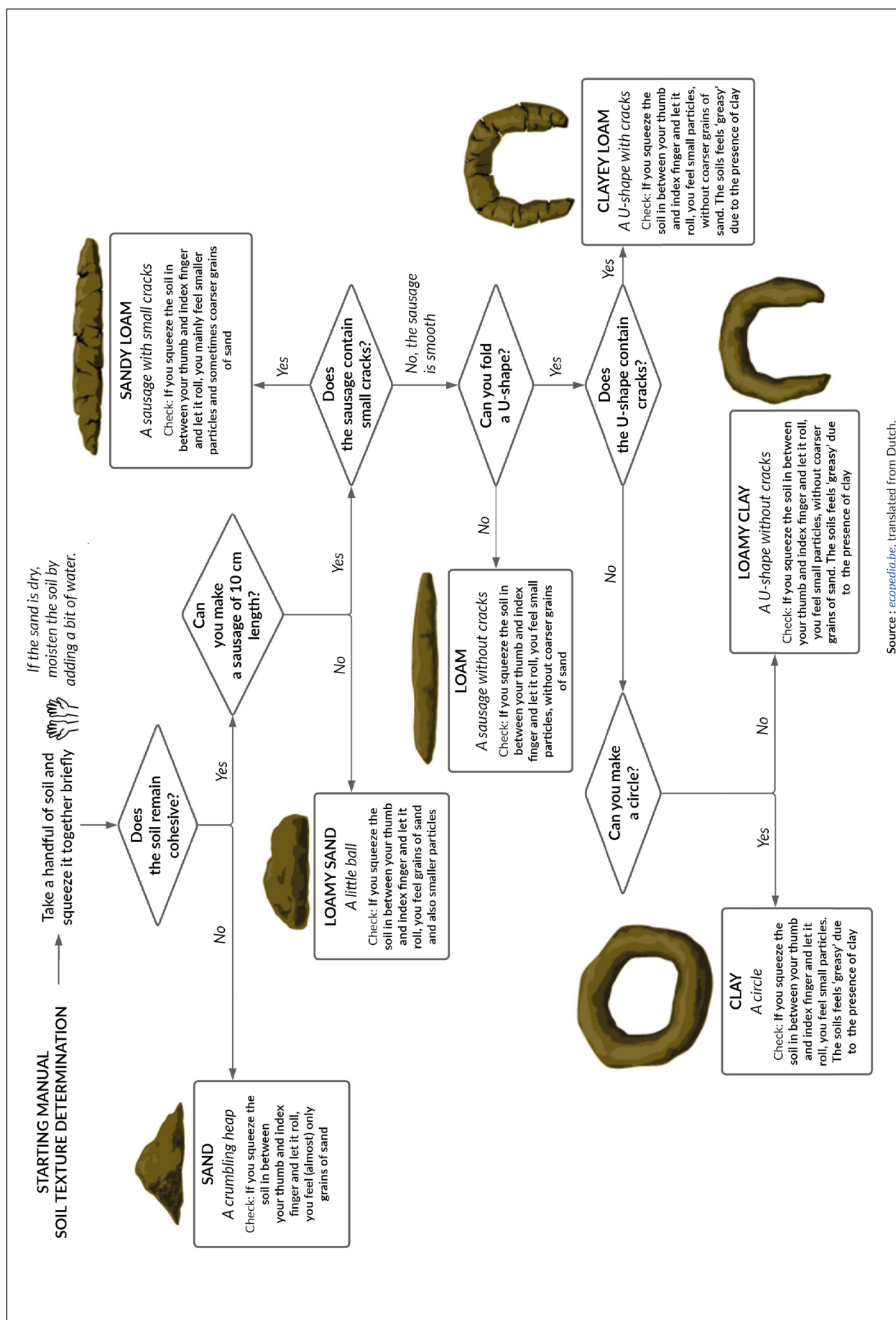
5. Step 4: Finishing and monitoring

- Place a marker or flag next to the sown area
- Take a photo so you can compare the progress later

TIP : Would you like to know more about wildflower meadows and the best tips for sowing and how to look after your wildflower meadow ? Then download our free educational pack and guides (planting and management) '[A Heart for Bees](#)' '[Een hart voor bijen](#)' (Not yet available in English)



Attachment- Which structure has your soil?



Source : ecopedia.be, translated from Dutch.

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