

Annual to perennial fallow land

Goal	Establishment of additional foraging- and breeding habitat
Target group	Farmers who grow any kind of arable crop
Description of the measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No sowing in (focus is on self-establishment of wild flora) ▪ In temperate regions: no tillage after harvest until at least next year autumn. ▪ In Mediterranean regions: only a superficial tillage after harvest until at least next year autumn. In Mediterranean conditions, that tillage is important to loosen the upper part of soil and allow rainfall water to sink into the ground instead of running off. ▪ Keep stubbles without tillage after the last harvest at the beginning of the measure. ▪ No use of pesticides or fertilizer. ▪ Mowing rather late after flowering of established flora if necessary (no management between 01.03 and 31.07 (in temperate region) and 01.02 and 15.06 (in Mediterranean region)). ▪ It is important that areas get only mown or mulched partly instead of all in once, e.g. 10–50 % could be left aside for insects. ▪ Grass clippings should be removed in order to avoid compaction of turf which makes it difficult for wild herbs to germinate.
Suitable sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All soils ▪ Sites with minor occurrence of problem weeds
How a good implementation looks like	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The vegetation of the area consists of many different plant species and shows a heterogeneous structure
Effects on biodiversity (ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)	 <p>Because of minor disturbance breeding success of field birds is comparably high</p>
	 <p>Hibernation habitat for insects: on tilled arable land hibernation is not possible.</p> <p>Enhancement of the soil food web (bacteria, fungi and other microorganisms): these organisms develop relations with different plant species and with each other, resulting in a more diverse and stable soil life.</p> <p>Valuable habitat for wild bees, butterflies and other insects especially on poor soils with a high rate on self-establishment of wild herbs and flower diversity.</p> <p>Sparse vegetation with partly bare soil may be colonized by pioneer species such as medick, clover, vetch or different kinds of mallow or wild bees, digger wasp and rare filago.</p>

Other positive effects/benefit for the farmer	
Indicator/key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Total size of area (ha) set aside
Risk and further recommendations	Unsuitable sites include areas with the occurrence of rare wild field herbs. Those are dependent on tillage; long fallows affect wild herbs negatively
Timeframe (When to start a measure and anticipated time for implementation)	<p>When to start: after harvest</p> <p>Anticipated time for implementation: at least one, up to two/three years as rare field herbs are dependent on regular tillage.</p>
Additional special resources/equipment/skills needed	None
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ www.landwirtschaft-artenvielfalt.de ▪ www.franz-projekt.de/massnahmen ▪ NABU, Fact Sheets – Feldvögel, Kulturfolger der Landwirtschaft ▪ Vögel der Agrarlandschaft, NABU 2004 ▪ Stiftung Rheinische Kulturlandschaft, DBU: Abschlussbericht Maßnahmen- und Artensteckbriefe zur Förderung der Vielfalt typischer Arten und Lebensräume der Agrarlandschaften, 2018

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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