Our perennial dry meadow was largely grown from seed which was sown directly into a thick layer of sand covering the bed. The sand provided a free draining bed for the seeds and prevented the germination of any existing seeds already in the soil. Just a few of the plants went into the bed as established plants. The plant mix was designed by Professor James Hitchmough, from the Department of Landscape at Sheffield University. These plants wouldn’t be found growing together naturally, they are mostly from steppe and prairie habitats like those found in North America and South Africa. They were selected to grow together here to particularly suit the dry Cambridge climate.
Plants included in the direct sown perennial seed mixes

Ajuga genevensis
Allium senescens
Berkheya purpurea ‘Silver Spikes’
Castilleja integra
Daucus carota subsp. carota
Dianthus carthusianorum
Diascia integerrima
Dracocephalum grandiflorum
Echinacea paradoxa
Eryngium maritimum
Euphorbia nicaeensis
Eurybia divaricata
Galium odoratum
Galium verum
Gazania linearis ‘Colorado Gold’
Inula ensifolia
Lathyrus vernus
Liatris aspera
Oenothera macrocarpa subsp. incana
‘Silver Blade’
Origanum vulgare
Penstemon cobaea
Penstemon ‘Jingle Bells’
Penstemon strictus ‘Bandera’
Polemonium reptans
Primula elatior

Plants added to the meadow as established plants

Agapanthus ‘Black Pantha’
Agapanthus campanulatus ‘Navy Blue’
Aster amellus ‘Veilchenkonigen’
Carex testacea
Echinops ritro ‘Veitch’s Blue’
Eremurus stenophyllus
Eryngium creticum
Hakonechloa macra
Kniphofia uvaria
Nerine undulata
Sporobulus wrightii
Stipa gigantea

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