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.

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Plants included in the direct sown perennial seed mixes:

- Ajuga genevensis
- Allium senescens
- Berberis purpurea 'Silver Spikes'
- Castilleja integra
- Dacca integerrima
- Dracaena grandiflorum
- Echinacea paradoxa
- Eringium nicaeensis
- Euphorbia nicaeensis
- Galium odoratum
- Gazania linearis 'Colorado Gold'
- Inula ensifolia
- Lathyrus vernus
- Liatris aspera
- Oenothera macrocarpa subsp. incana
- Penstemon cobaea
- Polemonium reptans
- Primula elatior
- Primula vulgaris
- Rudbeckia missouriensis
- Scabiosa lachnophylla
- Scutellaria baicalensis
- Siler montanum
- Symphyotrichum oblongifolium
- Veronica spicata subsp. incana
- Zauschneria 'Western Hills'

Plants added to the meadow as established plants:

- Agapanthus 'Black Pantha'
- Agapanthus campanulatus 'Navy Blue'
- Aster amellus 'Veitch's Blue'
- Carex testacea
- Echinops ritro 'Veitch's Blue'
- Eremurus stenophyllus
- Eryngium creticum
- Hakonechloa macra
- Kniphofia uvaria
- Nerine undulata
- Sporobolus Wrightii
- Stipa gigantea

Dry Meadow Plant List 2017