



Images courtesy of James Hitchmough



ILI Lecture Series, 2009

# NATURALISTIC HERBACEOUS VEGETATION

The design and management of naturalistic herbaceous vegetation in urban public landscapes in the UK

Dr James Hitchmough, Professor of Horticultural Ecology,  
Department of Landscape, University of Sheffield, UK

James Hitchmough and his colleague Dr Nigel Dunnett, both of the Dept of Landscape have been at the forefront of developing naturalistic herbaceous vegetation for use in parks and public greenspaces—including green roofs and SUDS—for over a decade. In 2004 they collaborated on editing *The Dynamic Landscape: Naturalistic Planting in an Urban Context* and are regularly invited to speak on their research and practice at conferences across the world.

While Hitchmough's primary research has centred around the ecology, design and management of herbaceous vegetation he has developed an interest in re-interpreting ecologically based herbaceous vegetation in the cultural context of the public greenspace of towns and cities.

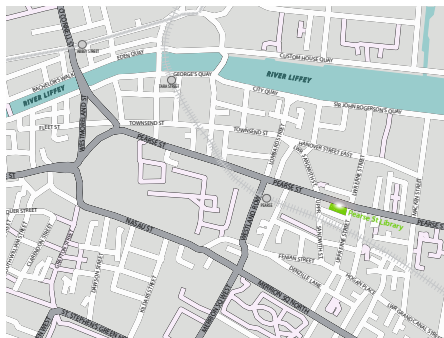
This has resulted in a large volume of research on the creation of various native and non-native meadow,

steppe and prairie vegetation from sowing seed in situ. This vegetation is designed to be much more sustainable than the traditional herbaceous plantings, however the main goal of the work is to produce ecologically informed herbaceous plant communities that are highly attractive to the lay public.

In this presentation James will outline the philosophical and practical challenges involved in developing these new vegetation types, and look at a number of case studies where his work has been or is in the process of being applied, generally on a large scale. These will include; The 2012 London Olympics; The Royal Horticultural Society Garden at Wisley, Surrey; The Eden Project Cornwall. The presentation will also deal with public reaction to these vegetation types and their long term management and maintenance.

Attendance at this public lecture is free.

[www.irishlandscapeinstitute.com](http://www.irishlandscapeinstitute.com)  
[www.shef.ac.uk/landscape/staff/profiles/jhitchmough](http://www.shef.ac.uk/landscape/staff/profiles/jhitchmough)



Venue Pearse Street Library,  
138-144 Pearse St,  
Dublin 2

Date Tuesday,  
August 11th 2009

Doors 5:30 pm

Lecture 6:15 pm sharp