



PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS

Planting nectar and pollen-rich flowers is a simple way to help and provide food for pollinators, including bees, hoverflies, butterflies and beetles.

Getting started

Different species grow best under different conditions, so you need to consider key factors like your soil type, where the plants will be and the amount of sunlight that they'll get. You can also plant them in pots or window boxes if you are limited on space.

Some of our native plants that can be great for pollinators include dandelions, clover and daisies. Often many of these will already exist under your lawn as seeds. By simply not mowing over the month of May you can create a haven for bees and butterflies.

You can buy established plants from garden centres and nurseries. You can also order them from websites online such as Avon Wildlife Trust's Grow Wilder Shop (www.growwilder.co.uk) or you can get seeds from Plantlife's Shop (shop.plantlife.org.uk/collections/wildflower-seeds).

When planting your flowers:

- **Choose a sheltered but sunny spot**
- **Place each plant in groups or lines** so that the colour and scent are easy to detect
- **Have flowers blooming all year round** – select plants so that flowers are available from early spring to late autumn
- **Pick flowers with a simple (often flat) structure**, like daisies, as they are the easiest for insects to feed from
- **Remember to provide plants for night time moths too.** Plant some night-scented flowers.
- **Add herbs to your pots and flowerbeds** too as they are highly attractive to insects, or create a herb garden





Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*)

Yellow rattle reduces grass growth so it is used to turn grassland back to meadow which is better for wildlife. It attracts pollinators such as bumblebees.

Where to plant

Grassland of low to medium fertility; full sun; well-drained/moist but well-drained soil; chalk, clay, sand, loam

When it flowers

May to September

Viper's bugloss (*Echium vulgare*)

Viper's bugloss is a hairy flower that attracts a range of pollinators including buff-tailed and red-tailed bumblebees, large skipper and painted lady butterflies, honeybees and red mason bees.

Where to plant

Full sun; well-drained soil; loam, chalk, sandy

When it flowers

June to August



Comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*)

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Bumblebees absolutely love comfrey! It can have purple, pink or cream flowers.

Where to plant

Full sun or partial shade; moist but well-drained or poorly drained soil; sand, chalk, loam, clay

When it flowers

May to July

Meadow crane's-bill (*Geranium pratense*)

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This plant attracts many species of bee, including buff-tailed and red-tailed bumblebees, and honeybees.

Where to plant

Full sun or partial shade; moist but well-drained/well-drained soil; sand, chalk, loam, clay

When it flowers

June to September



Catmint (*Nepeta*)

This flower attracts a wide range of pollinators including bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Its leaves are food for caterpillars. Different varieties have different coloured flowers.

Where to plant

Full sun or partial shade; well-drained soil; sand, chalk, loam

When it flowers

June to September

Wild marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*)

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Wild marjoram is attractive to many insects, including butterflies, moths, bees, beetles and hoverflies.

Where to plant

Full sun; well-drained soil; sand, loam, chalk

When it flowers

June to September





Garden angelica

(*Angelica archangelica*)

This plant is enjoyed by numerous small solitary bees, wasps, beetles and hoverflies. After flowering, its seeds are eaten by birds.

Where to plant

Partial shade; moist but well-drained/poorly drained soil; clay, chalk, loam

When it flowers

June to July

Field scabious (*Knautia arvensis*)

Field scabious is attractive to many different insects including bees and butterflies.

Where to plant

Full sun; well-drained soil; loam, sand, chalk

When it flowers

July to September



Dahlia (single varieties, *Dahlia*)

The single-flowered dahlias are hugely attractive to bees, butterflies and other pollinators because they are more accessible and have a long-flowering period.

Where to plant

Full sun; moist but well-drained/well-drained soil; loam, clay, sand

When it flowers

July to September/October

Ivy (*Hedera*)

Over 140 species of insect and 17 species of bird feed on ivy, and countless others use it for shelter.

Where to plant

Partially shaded; well-drained/moist but well-drained soil; sand, clay, chalk, loam

When it flowers

September to November



Bird's-foot trefoil

(*Lotus corniculatus*)

This flower attracts bees and butterflies, and is food for some moth larvae.

Where to plant

Full sun; well-drained soil; loam, chalk, sand

When it flowers

May to September

Dog-rose (*Rosa canina*)

This shrub has pink and white flowers that attract bees, butterflies, moths and birds. It also provides shelter for birds and small mammals.

Where to plant

Full sun; moist to well-drained soil; chalk, clay, sand, loam

When it flowers

June to August





Wild cherry tree (*Prunus avium*)

The flowers of this tree attract bees, beneficial insects, birds, butterflies, moths and other pollinators. It also has seeds for birds and mammals and provides food for caterpillars. But only plant this in large gardens.

Where to plant

Full sun; moist but well-drained/well-drained soil; sand, clay, chalk, loam

When it flowers

March to April

Wild carrot

(*Daucus carota*)

Wild carrot attracts bees, beetles and hoverflies.

Where to plant

Full sun; well-drained soil; sand, chalk, loam

When it flowers

June to August



Common knapweed

(*Centaurea nigra*)

This flower attracts a range of butterflies including common blue, marbled white and meadow brown.

Where to plant

Full sun/partial shade; moist but well-drained soil; chalk, clay, sand, loam

When it flowers

June to September

Common/English bluebell

(*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

Common bluebells are a woodland flower that attracts butterflies, bees and hoverflies.

Where to plant

Partial shade, well-drained/moist but well-drained soil; chalk, clay, sand, loam

When it flowers

April to May

