

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO HELPING POLLINATORS



WHAT ARE POLLINATORS?

A pollinator is anything that carries pollen from one plant to another. They play a critical role in maintaining healthy ecosystems and are essential for food production. Pollinators are more than just bees; they include butterflies, birds, bats, small mammals, and insects.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Unfortunately, we have seen a decline in pollinator numbers in the past few decades, due to habitat destruction, pesticide use, and climate change. Planting flowers, trees, and plants that attract pollinators is a easy but powerful way you can do your part to help support our pollinator life and allow our ecosystems to thrive.

POLLINATOR PLANTS GUIDE

KEY INFO

Pick a sunny sheltered spot for your pollinator plants. Group each type of plant together so that their scent and colour is easy for pollinators to pick up. Make the most of your space by planting varieties that flower throughout the spring to autumn season; welcoming pollinators to use your space for as long as possible. Plant different flowers with a range of colours and structures to encourage many types of pollinators to visit and enjoy your space.

SPRING

A good place to start your pollinator garden is with *bluebells*. A pleasant sign that spring is on the way, they are loved by nectar-seeking insects due to their colour & shape. Plant using bulbs for quick growth, and make sure to use native varieties only. Do note that *bluebells* are fast spreading if given the chance. *Pulmonarias* are another great perennial for spring that have an accessible flower for pollinators. Plant in well weeded soil and water regularly. Prune in late autumn, or leave them in place to allow winter shelter for wildlife.

SUMMER

Vibrant colour & fragrant scent makes *Lavender* a perfect choice for a pollinator garden. Plant in early spring for flowering later in the season. English lavender is hardy and if planted in the ground can stay out over the winter. *Buddleja* is an easy growing shrub known as 'butterfly bush' for good reason. Planting in sunny areas in spring is ideal. Fast growing, they require pruning, but are a haven for butterfly and other pollinator life when they flower in the summer.

LATE SUMMER & BEYOND

Honeysuckle is a fantastic choice for a later flowering plant. Blooming in summer to autumn, followed by berries, these easy to grow climbers do well in partial shade and come in a wide range of colours. They do require pruning and training as a climbing plant. Winter plants are just as important for our pollinator life, and *willows* offer their catkins which provide much needed pollen & protein. *Snowdrops and Crocuses* are also great suggestions for winter flowers that can be planted in spring and late summer respectively.

NIGHT SCENTED FLOWERS

It is important to remember to provide some options for night-time pollinators like moths. *Honeysuckle* is a great variety for this, as well as aptly named plants like *evening primrose* and *night-scented stock*. The primrose will flower through the summer and autumn from seeds planted in early summer. While the stock planted in spring will flower during the summer months. Both are easy growing, require little maintenance, and do well in full sun.

OTHER GREAT IDEAS

There are many other ways you can plant to encourage pollinator life. A simple action you can do is just let your lawn grow wild during the spring, this will allow wildflowers like dandelions to flourish and attract pollinators. A great way to make use of limited space is by planting herbs. Fast growing and fragrant they also can be used in your kitchen. On a larger scale, planting orchard fruit trees offer plenty of opportunities to support the pollination process, bird & wildlife, and provide a food source for yourself as well.

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