

B-friendly in your garden

Whether you have a large garden, small patio or just a windowsill you can help us create B-Lines!



Our bees and other pollinators are **in trouble** – and one of the main reasons for this is lack of **food and shelter**. Together our gardens can provide vital **'stepping stones'** of habitat for our pollinator friends throughout our towns and cities.

A few small changes you make in your garden can help...

Choose plants that are rich in nectar and pollen...

Bedding plants: generally single rather than double flowered plants are better. Look out for the RHS 'Perfect for Pollinators' logo on plants in your local garden centre and ask staff for advice.

Shrubs and trees: Fruit trees and shrubs such as apple, cherry, plum, blackberry, gooseberry and raspberry are great for pollinators. Willow, blackthorn and hawthorn will provide food for them early in the year.

Herbs: Lavender, mint, wild marjoram, fennel, sage and thyme are just a few of the herbs loved by bumblebees.

Vegetables: Many vegetable plants (e.g. beans, peas and tomatoes) are also bee friendly so why not grow your own?

If you don't have a space for a flower bed, growing the right plants in hanging baskets and planters is a great option. And if you can, try to have flowers in bloom throughout the spring, summer and autumn.



White-tailed bumblebee
(*Bombus lucorum*)
©Suzie Bairner

Everyone can help
our bumblebees,
butterflies and other
insect pollinators!

Gardens can make
up over a third of
the green space in
our cities

B-friendly in your garden

**Take a break
and cut your
lawn a little
less often!**



Allow plants such as buttercups, daisies, self-heal, clovers and dandelions to flower and provide valuable nectar and pollen resources.

**Save some
time and don't
be too tidy**

Don't worry about tidying up those rough untidy corners of your garden – they can be important areas for sheltering and nesting insects, and can provide winter homes, especially where bramble or tall grasses are present.

**Use fewer
pesticides**



Try to reduce your use of pesticides, they will kill useful insects as well as pests. Avoid using pesticides on flowering plants where you see pollinators or near nests.

Why not create a mini meadow?

Creating a wildflower meadow can produce a colourful summer buzz. Bees, hoverflies, moths and butterflies are just some of the creatures you might find in your mini meadow. So get sowing!

Where should I create my meadow?

The best place to plant wildflowers is in a sunny spot in the garden, but if you don't have much space, you can sow them in a container or window box instead.

When & how should I create my meadow?

Do not fertilise the soil: wildflowers flourish on poor soil. Sow the seed in autumn or early spring. Sprinkle the seeds on bare earth and then gently press them into the soil. You do not want to bury them. Water them lightly and if you are sowing the seed into a tray, make sure the compost doesn't dry out.



©Magne Flaten



©Leanna Dixon

Which wildflowers should I choose?

There are many nectar-rich wildflowers to choose from, including:

- Knapweed
- Lady's bedstraw
- Meadow buttercup
- Cowslip
- Oxeye daisy
- Red clover
- Yarrow
- Bird's foot trefoil
- Black medic
- Field scabious
- Selfheal
- Wild parsnip
- Wild marjoram

If you buy a packet of mixed wildflower seeds, make sure that they are all native to the UK.

Managing your meadow

Cut your meadow in the autumn once the seed heads have dropped their seed, and remove the cuttings.

Bee hotels can provide somewhere for some solitary bees to spend the winter in. Visit www.buglife.org.uk to find out how to make your own and where to put them.

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