

Put the spring in your step with this pollinator-friendly planting guide and make your garden bee-licious!

TAKE ACTION FOR BEES
... IN YOUR GARDEN



Pieris japonica: They like full sun or partial shade, in flower beds, borders and even courtyard gardens.

Cowslip: They like a sheltered position in the sun or partial shade. Try growing in a container or rock garden. Also good for borders.

Common comfrey: They like moist soil in sun or partial shade. Can spread so site carefully.

SPRING

Borage: They like sun or partial shade and reasonably drained soil. Great for bees! Try them in flower borders and beds.

Lavender: They like sheltered positions in the full sun. Good in raised beds and borders.

Cornflower: They like well-drained soil in full sun. Sow from March to May.

SUMMER

WINTER

Hybrid Lenten rose: They like full sun or partial shade and well-drained moist soil. Try under roses or in a rockery.

Snowdrops: They like partial shade, in well-drained soil, under roses or in rock gardens.

Winter aconite: They like full sun or partial shade, well-drained soil, flower borders and beds, under roses and shrubs.

AUTUMN

Autumn crocus: They like full sun and well-drained soil. Try in container plants and rockery.

Aster amellus: They like full sun and well-drained soil, flower borders and beds.

Dahlia (open-centred flower forms only): They like full sun and well drained moist soil. Good in flower beds and in courtyard gardens.



TOP TIPS:

for helping bees from the gardening experts at the WI

Avoid insecticides – they may kill pests but are bad for the bees. Instead of insecticides, try companion planting. If you choose to use them, follow the instructions carefully and avoid spraying at times when bees are busiest.


Plant flowers for every season – this maintains a steady source of food for bees. See our chart for a list of bee friendly plants and the time of year they flower.

Go wild – if you've got a patch of land you're not sure what to do with, why not try planting wild flower seeds. They grow almost anywhere and are pretty too!

Keep it messy – solitary bees and bumblebees live in burrows, nests or even long grass. By leaving some messy patches in your garden you can encourage bees to make their home there. You might find some hedgehogs move in too.

Keep a source of water on site – a pretty birdbath or water feature will help bees

and bring other wildlife to your garden too. Make sure it's accessible by having some small pebbles in the base of the bath.



Plant flowers in large patches or 'drifts' – when out foraging, most bees will stick to one type of flower, so by planting in patches you will provide a good forage area and save the bees' energy travelling from site to site.

Plant a good selection of annual, biennials and herbaceous perennials – see our flower chart for what to plant and when they flower.

Plant some herbs – good for cooking and great for bees! Try marjoram, thyme, sage, rosemary and borage. Plant in a container if you're limited for space.

Fruit and veg are brilliant – bees like beans, strawberries and currants and, once they've pollinated the flowers, you can enjoy the fruit – and veg – of their labours!