

6 STEPS TO HELP POLLINATING INSECTS



1



PLANT FOR POLLINATORS

Grow a wide range of pollinator friendly flowers, shrubs and trees. Challenge yourself to cover the whole year.

2



ALLOW PATCHES OF LAND TO GROW 'WILDER'

Undisturbed areas create valuable habitat for shelter and food.

3



CREATE NESTING HABITATS

Leave some bare earth, make compost heaps, and put up a bee hotel.

4



LET THE GRASS GROW

Give the mower a rest. Many lawn flowers such as daisies, clovers and dandelions provide vitally important food.

5



DUMP THE PESTICIDES

These chemicals harm bees and other beneficial insects, including hoverflies. Search out natural solutions.

6

JOIN US!

To find out more on how you can help pollinators visit us at: www.pollinatorproject.gg | Twitter: @pollinatorproj
Facebook: The Pollinator Project



Pollinating insects are in trouble.

Modern farming practices, urban growth and the overuse of pesticides have all been devastating to these insects. Two-thirds of UK butterflies and moths are in long term decline. Across Europe, 38% of bees and hoverflies are also in decline.

And yet, one out of every three mouthfuls of our food depends on pollination taking place. It is impossible to overestimate how important pollinators are.

With nearly a third of Guernsey's land designated as 'gardens', our home patches form an important network of areas where wildlife can thrive. If garden owners "set aside" just 10% of their properties for pollinating insects, this would add over 150 hectares to the 'natural' habitat of the island – the equivalent of over 200 football pitches.

The Pollinator Project aims to:

- ✿ Raise awareness of the genuine contribution we can each make to the enhancement of Guernsey's biodiversity by providing food and habitats for pollinators.
- ✿ Encourage the community to take action in their gardens, allotments, window boxes and balconies to make them pollinator-friendly.
- ✿ Work with schools, business, sports facilities and community groups to establish pollinator patches throughout the island.
- ✿ Persuade large-scale landowners, such as the States of Guernsey, utility companies, and managers of public and amenity spaces to plant flowers, shrubs, hedging and trees for pollinators and to create nesting habitats.
- ✿ Discourage the use of pesticides in gardens and other open spaces.



Which insects are the best pollinators?

Honey bees aren't the only insects that pollinate crops and garden flowers. Here are the main groups of insects that will be the top performers in your garden.



Bumblebees

GUERNSEY 7 SPECIES

UK 24 SPECIES

Social insects that have queens and workers that live in small colonies in underground holes. These nests typically only survive one season. A Bumble bee's thick furry pile acts as insulation, and allows them to be active in all weathers.



Butterflies & Moths

GUERNSEY c1250 SPECIES

UK c2590 SPECIES

They use their long, narrow proboscis to draw nectar. As they feed on flowers, pollen will be deposited on their bodies, and then transferred to the next flower that they visit. Some are migrants, arriving here from the Mediterranean.



Solitary Bees

GUERNSEY 79 SPECIES

UK 250+ SPECIES

The most numerous family of bees. They nest singly, but often in loose communities, in underground burrows or horizontal holes in wood or bricks or earth banks. They are important pollinators of both wild flowers and cultivated crops.



Hoverflies

GUERNSEY 100+ SPECIES

UK 280 SPECIES

Often mistaken for bees or wasps, hoverflies are harmless and do not have a sting. Not only are they great pollinators, but they are also the 'gardener's friend' as they are carnivorous and feed on aphids and other horticultural pests.



Wasps

GUERNSEY 100+ SPECIES

UK 250+ SPECIES

Carnivorous insects, so good at reducing bug numbers in our gardens, adults also feed on nectar and are good pollinators. Some are social and some are solitary, but counter to their bad press most are placid and unlikely to sting.



Honey Bees

GUERNSEY 1 SPECIES

UK 1 SPECIES

Domesticated, highly organised social bees living in colonies of up to 60,000 individuals, typically in manmade hives, with a queen, female workers and drones. They produce honey from nectar, and the colony usually survives from one year to the next.

Other insects: Beetles, ants and spiders are also accidental pollinators and generally beneficial in a garden environment.

Great plants to attract pollinators to your garden.

Here are some plants that are guaranteed to bring butterflies, bumblebees, honeybees and hoverflies to your garden.

By growing some of the plants from each of the sections below you will attract pollinators throughout the year. Most are perennials and will flower year after year.

Winter/Spring

- Crocus • Mahonia • Grape Hyacinth
- Red Currant • Viburnum • Violets
- Wallflower • Pulmonaria • Willows • Apple
- Aquilegia • Comfrey • Geranium • Thyme

Mid-Summer

- Catmint • Honeysuckle • Scabious • Viper's Bugloss • Globe Thistle – Echinops • Eryngium
- Stachys Byzantia • Cranesbill • Knautia Macedonia • Veronica Spicata • Sunflower
- Marjoram • Mint • Red Valerian • Borage

Late Summer/Autumn

- Buddleia • Helenium • Lavender • Greater Knapweed • Sage • Salvia • Michaelmas Daisy
- Echinacea • Ivy • Rudbeckia • Dahlia
- Sedum Spectabile



Our website will have updates on this list, as well as tips on other ways to attract these insects to your garden.

www.pollinatorproject.org

