

# garden for life

and you'll never be short of visitors

## bedding plants for pollinators

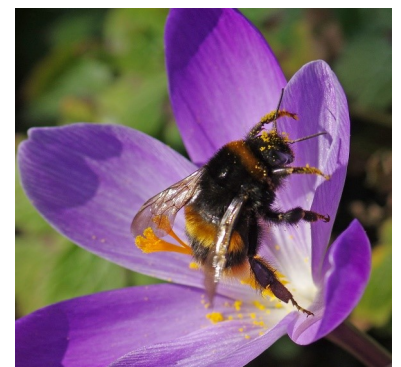
Insects like bees, butterflies and hoverflies are welcome visitors to gardens. They are also important pollinators of crops and wildflowers, as well as providing food for animals like bats and birds. While these insects can forage from a great variety of flowers, some of the plants used in bedding schemes are of simply no use to these insects. This is because many of those plants have been selected to produce large blooms, so produce little or no nectar or pollen. Others are from parts of the world where their native pollinating insects are very different to those found in Britain, so the nectar and pollen in the flowers cannot be accessed.

Fortunately the list of plants which are **not** useful for insects is very short. Those plants are: **Petunia, Begonia, most cultivated pansies and violas, scarlet salvia and Pelargonium (often known as tender Geranium)**. Some varieties of otherwise useful plants are also difficult for our insects to access. This is the case when they have been bred to have flowers with tightly bunched petals and is commonly seen in roses and dahlias.

To help support local pollinator populations you can replace some of those plants with these more pollinator-friendly plants. It's important to have food for insects available from early spring to late summer.

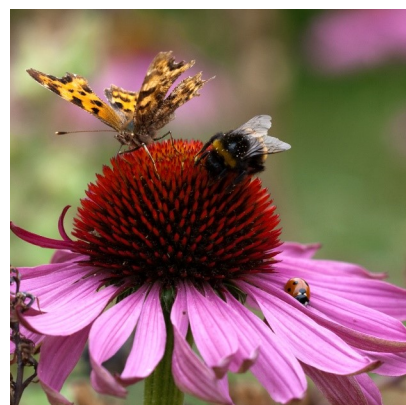
### Spring flower planting ideas

Plant	Annual/ perennial	Flowering period
Aubrieta	Perennial	March-May
Bluebell	Perennial	April-May
Bugle/ Ajuga	Perennial	May– June
Crocus	Perennial	March-April
Grape hyacinth	Perennial	March, April, May (check variety)
Hellebore	Perennial	February—March
Honesty	Biennial	May-June
Lungwort	Perennial	March—May
Pieris	Perennial	March – May



## Summer flower planting ideas

Plant	Annual/perennial	Flowering period
Allium	Perennial	Very long - check variety
Aquilegia	Perennial	May - August
Aster	Annual or perennial	May - September
Campanula	Perennial	June - August
Bistort	Perennial	June - August
Borage	Annual	June - September
Candytuft	Annual	May - September
Cosmos	Annual	July - October
Dahlia	Perennial	July - October
Echinacea	Perennial	July - October
Fuchsia	Annual or perennial	July - October
Gaillardia	Perennial	June - September
Geranium	Perennial	May - October
Globe thistle	Perennial	July - September
Heather - Erica	Perennial	Very long – check variety
Heather -Calluna	Perennial	July – November, check variety
Hemp agrimony	Perennial	August - October
Heuchera	Perennial	May - August
Hollyhock	Annual or Perennial	June - August
Jacob's ladder	Perennial	June - August
Japanese anemone	Perennial	August - October
Lavender	Perennial	June - September
Lupin	Annual or Perennial	June - September
Purple loosestrife	Perennial	July - September
Rudbeckia	Annual	July - October
Salvia	Perennial	June - August
Scabious	Annual or Perennial	June - October
Sea Holly	Perennial	July - September
Sneezeweed/ Helenium	Perennial	July - September
Sedum	Perennial	August - October
Snapdragon	Perennial	July - September
Spiraea	Perennial	July - August
Thrift	Perennial	May - July
Verbena bonariensis	Perennial	June - September
Veronica	Perennial	June - August
Wallflower	Perennial	April - June



## Wildflower meadows

The UK has lost over 98% of its wildflower meadows in the past 100 years. You can help insects and other animals by letting grass grow in places where it doesn't need to be cut. One or two cuts per year (early spring and late summer) should help keep it in check, and you may find that the soil already has seeds of various wildflowers. You can also sow your own meadow, and we advise the use of seeds that are native to your area and, where possible, to use a mix of annuals and perennial plants including grasses. Many perennials are the food for butterfly caterpillars, so they are essential for new meadows.

Photograph credits: Iain Leach (overleaf), Cath Walker, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Butterfly Conservation (above)