

Factsheet: Benefit Bumblebees



Bumblebees are disappearing and we can all do our bit to benefit them by providing food sources and nest sites. Below is a list of do's and don'ts and useful links for more information.

Do	Don't
 Identify the bees in your garden – click here to do a survey	Forget to send us your records, email biodiversity@bracknell-forest.gov.uk
Find out how Bee Kind your garden is – take the test here	Use pesticide or herbicides, these can have a wide range of effects on bees
Grow plants that provide nectar and pollen using the RHS plants for pollinators list	Grow double-flowers unless you can still see the flower centre. These don't provide any food for bees.
Sow or plant native wildflowers in a meadow or flowering lawn	Don't cut your lawn more than once a fortnight, this will allow some flowers to bloom
Choose native plants and their cultivars over non-natives	Grow invasive non-natives listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act – click here for RHS webpage
Buy or make a bee hotel for solitary bees – click here for instructions	Buy a bumble bee nest box – they are not proven to work
Use plants that have a long flowering season to help bees in early spring and late summer	Clear away all your flower heads, stems and brash piles in autumn. Leave some until spring to provide hibernation sites.

Useful links

For more information about benefiting bumblebees see the links below:

Bumblebee Conservation Trust – Gardening for Bumblebees

www.bumblebeeconservation.org/gardeningadvice

Buglife – B-Lines leaflets including ‘B-friendly to your veg’

www.buglife.org.uk/resources/publications-hub/b-lines-resources/b-lines-leaflets

Royal Horticultural Society - Plants for Pollinators

www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators

Wild about Gardens – Wild Bee Action Pack

www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-08/Wild%20about%20gardens_wild%20bee%20action%20pack.pdf

Gardener’s World – Wildlife-friendly hanging basket

www.gardenersworld.com/how-to/grow-plants/wildlife-friendly-hanging-basket



Year of the Garden 2020 is aimed at helping wildlife in our urban areas, from allotments to road verges, backyards to buildings. The project is organised by the Bracknell Forest Nature Partnership ([click here](#)) to achieve targets in the Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan ([click here](#)).