

Gardens have become an important refuge for bees. You can encourage them to visit your garden by planting nectar and pollen rich plants.

Top planting tips

- Plant in a sheltered sunny location.
- Plant flowers in large patches or swathes so bees don't have to travel far between flowers.
- Include traditional cottage varieties and native wildflowers.
- Include early and late flowering plants to provide nectar all year round.

Planting suggestions

Early-season nectar plants

- Aubretia (*Aubretia*)
- English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)
- Flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*)
- Grape hyacinth (*Muscari botryoides*)
- Lungwort (*Pulmonaria* spp)
- Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*)
- Sweet violet (*Viola odorata*)
- Winter aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*)
- Wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*)

Mid-season nectar plants

- Buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*)
- Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*)
- Lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*)
- Lavender (*Lavandula* spp)
- Mallow (*Lavatera* spp)
- Purple toadflax (*Linaria purpurea*)
- Rock cress (*Arabis caucasica*)
- Sea holly (*Eryngium maritimum*)
- Verbena (*Verbena bonariensis*)
- Wallflower (*Erysimum cheiri*)

Late-season nectar plants

- Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
- French marigold (*Tagetes* spp)
- Golden rod (*Solidago canadensis*)
- Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp)
- Ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- Michaelmas daisies (*Aster novi-belgii*)
- Perennial sunflower (*Helianthus* spp)
- Red valerian (*Centranthus rubra*)

Herbs

- Angelica (*Angelica* spp)
- Borage (*Borago officinalis*)
- Catmint (*Nepeta* spp)
- Chives (*Allium schoenoprasam*)
- Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)
- Mint (*Mentha* spp)
- Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)
- Thyme (*Thymus* spp)
- Wild marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*)

