

## Wildlife Friendly Plants cont...

Sedum (esp. spectabile) – butterflies & bees (late)  
Skimmia – butterflies & bees (early)  
Solidago – butterflies & bees (late)  
Sunflower – birds & bumblebees (late)  
Syringa (lilac) – butterflies & bees (mid)  
Verbena bonariensis – butterflies & bees (late)  
Viburnums – butterflies & bees (mid)  
Viper's bugloss – butterflies & bumblebees (mid)  
Wallflower – butterflies & bumblebees (mid)  
Winter flowering heather – butterflies & bees (early)

## Keep in mind...

- ◆ Masses of single flowers in a sunny spot are best. Most double blossoms offer less pollen than single flowers
- ◆ Darker flowers seem to attract more attention
- ◆ Wild flowers and wildlife evolved together – so why not bring native flowers back into the garden and aid this 'natural support system'
- ◆ Help wildlife with a habitat... why not introduce a bee box made out of stacked hollow bamboo canes to encourage more permanent residence/a nesting site. A muddy area/puddle, or better still, a pond, will also provide great nesting material for certain bees, and butterflies, and will attract loads of wildlife.

## Why are bees so essential?

- ◆ Bees pollinate 75% of our most vital crops and favourite foods
- ◆ Without bees our economy would suffer – UK farmers would have to fork out £1.8 billion a year to pollinate our crops
- ◆ Bees are essential to our gardens, parks and countryside – vital to other insects, birds and animals

Ultimately, bees are essential to our food supply, economy and quality of life.

## Further Information

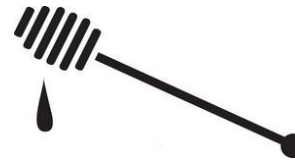
Please note that this information is only intended as a guide – put together from our knowledge and experience. To keep things simple we haven't distinguished between the different species of 'bees', 'butterflies' and 'birds' here, but it is important to note, each will have its own behaviour pattern throughout the year. For more info. and ideas type 'rhs wildlife and the gardener' into your search engine.

## Top Tips



To attract winter birds into the garden, avoid cutting off the seed heads on border perennials in the autumn. Birds feast on seeds as well as berries and insects.

Support your local bee keepers by choosing honey produced near you. Why not give honey beer, beeswax candles and sweet smelling honey soaps and balms a try too!



Sow a floral meadow in your garden! Many garden centres (like us!) sell seed packs with garden wildlife in mind. We have a Sarah Raven seed stand 'brilliant for bees and butterflies', which stocks a wide range of perfect pollen-producing annuals and perennials.



For more information get in touch with us, and we'll do our best to help and advise you.

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## Background

Following the well documented decline in bee numbers over recent years, there has thankfully been an increase in support for these very important pollinators on which the cropping of most fruit and many vegetables rely.

A greater awareness of just how vital garden wildlife, including bees and butterflies, are to the garden – and to us, has led to an increased consumer demand for plants that specifically encourage bees and butterflies to feed on their nectar and pollen rich flowers.

Supporting the wildlife in your garden doesn't have to be too difficult or challenging either – there are a whole host of plants that will keep our garden friends happy for the duration of spring and summer.

By planting a combination of early (March–April), mid (May–June) and late (July–September) flowering plants in the garden, you can keep a wide range of wildlife happy for the duration of the season.

## Wildlife Friendly Plants

We have highlighted many plants below that will help bring wildlife into your garden – particularly pollen and nectar-loving bees and butterflies. The list below identifies wildlife that may be particularly attracted to each plant, although this is just a rough guide. Often pollen and nectar loving bees and butterflies will find comfort in flowers of the same plants!

Also highlighted below is the flowering period of each plant. By planting a mix of 'early', 'mid' and 'late' flowering plants, you can sustain wildlife in your garden for the duration of the season, as mentioned.

Alyssum – butterflies & bees (late)  
 Aquilegia – butterflies & bumblebees (mid)  
 Aster – birds, bees & butterflies (late)  
 Aubrieta – butterflies & bees (early)  
 Bluebell – bumblebees (early)  
 Borage – bees (late)  
 Buddleja – butterflies, bumble & honeybees (late)  
 Bugle – butterflies & bumblebees (early)  
 Calendula (Marigold) – butterflies & bees (late)  
 Callicarpa – butterflies & bees (late)  
 Campanula – butterflies & bumblebees (mid)  
 Catmint – butterflies & bumblebees (mid)  
 Ceanothus – butterflies & bumblebees (mid)  
 Centaurea – birds & bumblebees (late)  
 Chives – butterflies & bees (late)  
 Chrysanthemum – butterflies (late)  
 Comfrey – butterflies & bumblebees (mid)  
 Cotoneaster – butterflies & bumblebees (mid)  
 Daphne – bees (early)  
 Dead-nettle – bumblebee (early)  
 Delphiniums – bumble & honeybees (late)  
 Echinacea – butterflies & bees (late)  
 Echinops – birds, butterflies & bees (late)  
 Escallonia – butterflies, bumble & honeybees (late)  
 Everlasting pea – butterflies & bumblebees (mid)  
 Forget-me-not – birds & butterflies (mid)

## Wildlife Friendly Plants cont...

Foxgloves – butterflies & bumblebees (mid)  
 Flowering currant – birds, butterflies & bees (early)  
 Geraniums – butterflies & bumblebees (mid)  
 Heathers – bumble & honeybees (late)  
 Hebes – butterflies & bees (mid)  
 Helichrysum – butterflies, bumble & honeybees (late)  
 Heliotropium – butterflies & bees (early)  
 Hollyhock – bumble & honeybees (late)  
 Honeysuckle – butterflies & bumblebees (mid)  
 Iberis – butterflies & bees (mid)  
 Kolkwitzia – butterflies & bees (mid)  
 Laburnum – bumblebees (mid)  
 Lavender – bumble & honeybees (late)  
 Leptospermums – butterflies & bees (from mid)  
 Lesser knapweed – butterflies & bumblebees (mid)  
 Leucanthemums – butterflies & bees (mid)  
 Leycesteria – butterflies & bees (late)  
 Lunaria – birds, butterflies & bees (mid)  
 Lungwort – butterflies & bumblebees (early)  
 Lupins – butterflies & bumblebees (mid)  
 Marjoram – butterflies & bumblebees (late)  
 Monarda – butterflies & bees (late)  
 Monkshood – butterflies & bumblebees (mid)  
 Muscari – butterflies & bees (early)  
 Oriental poppy – birds, butterflies & bees (mid)  
 Phacelia tanacetifolia – bumble & honeybees (late)  
 Prostanthera (mint bush) – butterflies & bees (late)  
 Pussy willow – bumble & honeybees (early)  
 Pyracantha (firethorn) – butterflies & bees (mid)  
 Rock rose – bumble & honeybees (late)  
 Rosemary – bumblebees (early)  
 Sage – butterflies & bumblebees (mid)  
 Sambucus (elder) – birds, butterflies & bees (mid)  
 Scabiosa – butterflies & bumblebees (late)  
 Sea holly – butterflies & bumblebees (late)  
 Sedum (esp. spectabile) – butterflies & bees (late)  
 Skimmia – butterflies & bees (early)  
 Solidago – butterflies & bees (late)