

# How to: Choose pollinator plants for late Spring and Summer



Photo: Lewis Collard via Wikimedia Commons



Photo: AnRo0002, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons

*There is a huge range of pollinator-friendly spring and summer flowering plants to choose from. This guide lists the most wildlife-friendly. It should be easy to have some species which cater to every pollinator group during this season, and there is something to suit every gardener's taste! Combine this guide with the 'Winter and early spring' and 'Late spring and summer' guides to ensure you are planting a mix of species in your garden which flower throughout the year; this can be achieved whatever sized space you have!*

**Target species:** Insect activity is highest in summer, so this is the time of year that you are most likely to see the greatest range of pollinator species visit your space. All six groups of pollinators will be at their overall most active during summer; bees, wasps, butterflies, moths, beetles and flies. This is because insects need sun to warm their muscles for flight, allowing them to be more active. Make sure to plant a selection of plants which are bee, butterfly and beetle friendly, to ensure you attract a diverse array of pollinators.

**How easy is it to do?** Easy

**How much will it cost?** Can be inexpensive; seeds cost about £3 per packet but putting in a lot of garden centre plants at £8-£12 can be pricey. You may be able to swap plants with your friends

**How effective is it for the target species?** Very effective.

## Species we recommend

Late spring and summer flowering species. These are all brilliant for pollinators, listed in order of 'wildlife score', an index measuring how many experts think they are useful to how many different groups of pollinators, with the best at the top. Native (and long established) species are shown in **bold** if you want to encourage wildflowers in your garden.

<b>Blackberry</b>	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	All groups
<b>Teasel</b>	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	All groups
<b>Field scabious</b>	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	All groups
Lavender	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> & others	All but hoverflies
<b>Marjoram</b>	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	All groups
<b>Viper's bugloss</b>	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	All groups
<b>Bugle</b>	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	All groups
<b>Greater knapweed</b>	<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	All groups
Perennial wallflower	<i>Erysimum 'Bowles Mauve'</i>	All but hoverflies
Catmint	<i>Nepeta</i> spp	All but hoverflies
Giant hyssop	<i>Agastache</i> spp	All but hoverflies
Chives	<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	Bumbles, honey, hoverflies
<b>Meadow crane's bill</b>	<i>Geranium pratense</i>	All but hoverflies
<b>Devil's-bit scabious</b>	<i>Succisia pratensis</i>	All groups
Thyme	<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>	All groups
<b>Bellflower (wild)</b>	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Bees, hoverflies
<b>Common knapweed</b>	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	All groups
<b>Plume thistle</b>	<i>Cirsium rivulare</i>	All groups
<b>Foxglove</b>	<i>Digitalis pupurea</i>	Bumbles
Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Bumbles, butterflies, hoverflies
<b>Bird's-foot trefoil</b>	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	All groups
Grape hyacinth	<i>Muscari armeniacum</i>	All groups
Scorpionweed	<i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i>	Bees, hoverflies
<b>Cherry</b>	<i>Prunus avium</i>	Bees, hoverflies
Firethorn	<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	Bees, hoverflies
<b>Dog rose</b>	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Bees, hoverflies
<b>Small leaved lime</b>	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Bees, hoverflies
Red valerian	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	All groups
Sneezewort	<i>Helenium</i> spp	Bees, hoverflies
Sunflower (not pollen-free types)	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Bees, hoverflies
Hyssop	<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>	All groups
<b>White dead-nettle</b>	<i>Lamium album</i>	Bees
<b>Common mint</b>	<i>Mentha spicata</i>	All groups
Oriental poppy	<i>Papaver orientale</i>	Bees, hoverflies
<b>Poppy</b>	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Bees, hoverflies
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Bees, hoverflies
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago</i> spp	Bees, hoverflies
Lamb's ear	<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	Bees, hoverflies
<b>Red clover</b>	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Bees
<b>Yarrow</b>	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	All groups
Allium - all sorts	<i>Allium</i> spp	Bees, butterflies

Angelica	<i>Angelica archangelica</i>	Solitary bees, hoverflies
<b>Columbine</b>	<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Bumble, butterflies, hoverflies
Buddleja	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	All groups
<b>Hawthorn</b>	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Bees, hoverflies
<b>Red campion</b>	<i>Silene dioica</i>	Bees, butterflies
<b>Dandelion</b>	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Bees, butterflies
<b>Large -leaved lime</b>	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	Bees, hoverflies
<b>White clover</b>	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Bees
<b>Field maple</b>	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Bees, hoverflies
Lesser calamint	<i>Calamintha nepeta</i>	Bees, butterflies
<b>Cornflower</b>	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Bees, hoverflies
<b>Rosebay willowherb</b>	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Bees, hoverflies
<b>Meadowsweet</b>	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Bees, hoverflies
<b>Honeysuckle</b>	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Bees
Domestic Apple	<i>Malus domestica</i> ( <i>pumila</i> )	Bees, hoverflies
Bee balm, bergamot	<i>Monarda spp</i>	Bees
<b>Cowslip</b>	<i>Primula veris</i>	All groups
Flowering currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	Bees
<b>Raspberry</b>	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Bees
<b>Leeks</b>	<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>	Bees, butterflies
<b>Heather/ Ling</b>	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Bees, hoverflies
Perennial cornflower	<i>Centaurea montana</i>	Bees, hoverflies
Honeywort	<i>Cerinthe major</i>	Bees
<b>Water mint</b>	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Bees, butterflies
<b>Forget-me-not</b>	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Bees, hoverflies
<b>Water forget-me-not</b>	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i> = <i>palustris</i>	All groups
Evening primrose	<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	Bees, butterflies
<b>Pear</b>	<i>Pyrus communis</i>	Bees, hoverflies
<b>Rose</b>	<i>Rosa (garden singles)</i>	Bees
<b>Hedge woundwort</b>	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Bees
<b>Common lime</b>	<i>Tilia x europaea</i>	Bees
Purple top	<i>Verbena bonairiensis</i>	Bees, butterflies
<b>Speedwell</b>	<i>Veronica spicata</i>	Bees
Dyer's Camomile	<i>Anthemis tinctoria</i>	All groups
Borage	<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Bees
Escallonia	<i>Escallonia species</i>	Bees, butterflies
California poppy	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	Bees, hoverflies
Fuchsia	<i>Fuchsia magellanica</i>	Bees, butterflies
<b>Rock rose</b>	<i>Helianthemum</i> <i>nummularium</i>	Bees, butterflies
<b>Hawkbits</b>	<i>Leontodon species</i>	Bees, hoverflies
<b>Bistort</b>	<i>Persicaria bistorta</i>	Bees
<b>Mouse-ear hawkweed</b>	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Bees, hoverflies
Lungwort	<i>Pulmonaria officinalis</i>	Bees, hoverflies

### **What to look for?**

As mentioned above, you may see all groups of pollinators during summer! Planting a range of plants from the diverse list should attract a diverse range of pollinators to your garden.

### **Things to be aware of**

- Watering: to prevent wilting, it is important to water your plants (particularly any in pots or planters) and look out for any signs of wilt on particularly warm sunny days. You may want to see if a friend or neighbour is able to water your plants if you are away for an extended period over the summer.
- Weeds can grow particularly quickly during summer months. Remember that lots of what we consider 'weeds' can actually be very important sources for nectar for pollinator species! If you do decide to minimise weeds in your garden, be sure to avoid herbicides; read 'How To Garden organically for wildlife' for lots of useful tips.
- Along with a higher activity of beloved pollinators, the summer heat may also bring more insects we consider 'pests' in the garden. Make sure to read 'How To Deal with pests and diseases' for more information on how to deal with these insects, but the most important factor is to be tolerant of minor herbivore damage!

### **Further information**

How to: Choose pollinator plants for [winter & early spring](http://www.wlgf.org/ht_plants_winter.pdf) [www.wlgf.org/ht\\_plants\\_winter.pdf](http://www.wlgf.org/ht_plants_winter.pdf)

How to: Choose pollinator plants for [late summer & autumn](http://www.wlgf.org/ht_plants_summer.pdf) [www.wlgf.org/ht\\_plants\\_summer.pdf](http://www.wlgf.org/ht_plants_summer.pdf)

How to: [Garden organically](http://www.wlgf.org/ht_organic.pdf) for wildlife [www.wlgf.org/ht\\_organic.pdf](http://www.wlgf.org/ht_organic.pdf)

How to: Manage [pests and diseases](http://www.wlgf.org/ht_pests.pdf) [www.wlgf.org/ht\\_pests.pdf](http://www.wlgf.org/ht_pests.pdf)

Many of the [native species](http://www.wlgf.org/top_wildflowers.html) listed above are on our website [www.wlgf.org/top\\_wildflowers.html](http://www.wlgf.org/top_wildflowers.html)

[Plants for wildlife friendly gardens](http://www.wlgf.org/neplants.pdf) booklet [www.wlgf.org/neplants.pdf](http://www.wlgf.org/neplants.pdf)