

# Planting That Sends You Batty!

As our climate changes, gardens are becoming even more vital to wildlife and people. They can provide shade, absorb carbon, soak up flood water and help to cool buildings. A well managed network of gardens stretching across the Sussex would also help wildlife to move more freely and adapt to climate change enabling us to create a living landscape.

## Wildcall

Tel: 01273 494777  
email: [wildcall@sussexwt.org.uk](mailto:wildcall@sussexwt.org.uk)



Sussex Wildlife Trust  
Woods Mill  
Henfield  
West Sussex  
BN5 9SD

Tel: 01273 492630

email: [enquiries@sussexwt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@sussexwt.org.uk)  
Web: [www.sussexwt.org.uk](http://www.sussexwt.org.uk)

All 17 species of bats in the UK eat insects, and need a good supply of these from spring through to the autumn. By growing flowers attractive to a range of insects, our gardens can become important feeding stations for bats, birds and other wildlife.



Pipistrelle bat by Hugh Clark

Many people enjoy seeing bats silently flitting through the evening sky as we enjoy a warm summer evening. The pipistrelle is the bat most frequently seen in gardens; it is our smallest bat, yet it can eat 3,000 gnats and midges every night.



Brown long-eared bat by Hugh Clark

Gardening for bats is all about increasing the number and diversity of insects in your garden, so creating more food for bats. Aim at having flowers in bloom through the year, including both annuals and herbaceous perennials. Most flowers that attract night flying insect such as moths tend to be white or pale in colour. This is because pale plants tend can be seen more easily by the insects at night.

## March to April



Marsh Marigolds by Tony Buckwell

**forget-me-not**

*Myosotis* spp.

**marigolds**

*Tagetes* spp.

**honesty**

*Lunaria annua*

**wall flower**

*Erysimum cheiri*

**rosemary**

*Rosmarinus officinalis*

**marsh marigold**

*Caltha palustris*

**herb robert**

*Geranium robertianum*

**st john's wort**

*Hypericum*

**honeysuckle (native)**

*Lonicera periclymenum*

**bramble**

*Rubus fruticosus* agg

**white dead nettle**

*Lamium album*



Herb robert by Paul Marten



Ragged robin by Darin Smith

## May to June

**yarrow**

*Achillea millefolium*

**poppies**

*papaver* spp.

**common knapweed**

*Centaurea nigra*

**evening primrose**

*Oenothera* spp.

**oxy eye daisy**

*Leucanthemum vulgare*

**coriander**

*Coriandrum sativum*

**summer jasmine**

*Nicotiana glauca*

**sweet tobacco**

*Nicotiana glauca*

**greater stitchwort**

*Stellaria holostea*

**chives**

*Allium schenoprasum*

**buddleia**

*Buddleia davidii*

**ragged robin**

*Lychnis flos-cuculi*

**red clover**

*Trifolium pratense*

**angelica**

**white campion**

*Silene latifolia*



Ox eye daisy by Miss B Stoner



Wild angelica by Graeme Lyons



Vipers bugloss by Paul Marten

## July to August

**fennel**

*Foeniculum vulgare*

**bergamot**

*Monarda didyma*

**water mint**

*Mentha aquatica*

**rosebay willowherb**

*Epilobium angustifolium*

**lavender**

*Lavandula* spp.

**purple loosestrife**

*Lythrum salicaria*

**michaelmas daisy**

*Aster novi-belgii*

**common mallow**

*Malva moschata*

**great mullein**

*Verbascum thapsus*

**ivy**

*Hedera helix*

**wild marjoram**

*Origanum vulgare*

**hollyhock**

*Alcea rosea*

**borage**

*Borago officinalis*

**viper's bugloss**

*Echium vulgare*

**scabious**

*Scabiosa columbaria*



Great Mullien by SWT



Fennel by Kathleen Amore

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