

Sound of the Summer

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.

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Wildflowers are becoming scarce in the countryside because we've lost many traditional habitats like hedgerows, hay meadows and chalk grassland. The extensive use of pesticides in farmland has also drastically reduced wildflower numbers. As a result, wildlife gardens have become a stronghold for some bumblebee species. In Sussex, you should be able to attract at least 6 of the 24 species of bumblebee in the UK into your garden.

Bumblebees need flowers throughout spring and summer (March-Sept), to provide them with nectar and pollen. Not all flowers can provide these vital energy sources to bees.

- ◆ Exotic and highly cultivated garden flowers are largely unsuitable, as they either produce little pollen and nectar or keep it really well hidden from the bees.
- ◆ Most annual bedding plants have little nectar to offer bees or other wildlife.
- ◆ The best plants to offer bees and wildlife in your garden are often cottage garden flowers and native flowers. These flowers often look fantastic in a garden setting as they are easy to grow and are pretty hardy to disease and pests.



Meadow by Darin Smith

March to April



bugle by Alan Price

crab apple
Malus sylvestris
bluebell
Hyacinthoides non-scripta
broom
Cytisus scoparius
cherry
Prunus avium
bugle
Ajuga reptans
heather
Erica cinerea
flowering currant
Ribes sanguineum

lungwort
Pulmonaria officinalis
pear
Pyrus communis
goat willow
Salix caprea
red dead nettle
Lamium purpureum
rosemary
Rosmarinus officinalis
white dead nettle
Lamium album



heather by SWT



bird's foot trefoil by Paul Marten

May to June

birds foot trefoil
Lotus corniculatus
chives
Allium schoenoprasum
comfrey
Symphytum officinalis
foxglove
Digitalis purpurea
honeysuckle
Lonicera periclymenum
kidney vetch
Anthyllis vulneraria
lupin
Lupinus spp.
white clover
Trifolium repens

poppies
Papaver spp.
raspberries
Rubus idaeus
red campion
Silene dioica
sage
Salvia officinalis
thyme
Thymus praecox
tufted vetch
Vicia cracca
meadow cranesbill
Geranium pratense
wisteria
Wisteria sinensis



poppy by Paul Marten



kidney vetch & red clover by Paul Stevens

July to August

borage
Borago officinalis
bramble
Rubus fruticosus agg
buddleia
Buddleia davidii
cornflower
Centaurea cyanus
hollyhock
Alcea rosea
common knapweed
Centaurea nigra
lavender
Lavandula spp.
leser burdock
Arctium minus
wild marjoram
Origanum vulgare
vipers bugloss
Echium vulgare

mint
Mentha spp.
purple loosestrife
Lythrum salicaria
red clover
Trifolium pratense
scabious
Scabiosa columbaria
sea holly
Eryngium maritimum
snap dragons
Antirrhinum majus
sunflower
Helianthus spp.
teasel
Dipsacus pilosus
thistles
Cirsium dissectum



bramble by Paul Marten



meadow thistle by Graeme Lyons



sheeps bit scabious

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