

PLANTING TREES FOR POLLINATORS



Pollinators like wild bees need nectar and pollen for energy and protein. Tree flowers can provide both, often when other food is scarce in spring and early summer.

Planting trees is a great way to create 'wildlife corridors.' Bumblebees tend to forage up to 1km from their nest, and solitary bees only forage within a few hundred metres. The more connected their habitats are, the easier it is for them to find the resources they need. Plant trees to create wildlife corridors between existing valuable habitats such as species-rich grassland and native flowering hedgerows.

✓ Right Tree

Trees are crucial to a healthy ecosystem and can support a huge variety of species. Local provenance native trees are best for our native wildlife as they have evolved alongside each other. If grown locally there will be a lower risk of importing pests and diseases.

On the back of this flyer is a selection of native trees that are particularly good for pollinators.

✓ Right Space

When selecting a tree, think about what will happen to it in the future: How tall will it grow? What will the canopy cover be like? Will it produce fruit that will fall in the autumn?

Hopefully your tree will last a long time in its environment, and all of these factors might impact its future, particularly in places where it may be in conflict with human interests.

✓ Right Place

A variety of habitats is needed for a healthy ecosystem. Some habitats are already valuable to biodiversity, so it is best to avoid planting trees in these areas.

They include species-rich grassland, wetlands or areas adjacent to streams, coastal habitats, bogs, heathland, or sites with rare or protected species.



Native Pollinator-friendly Trees

Hawthorn/ Whitethorn



Hawthorn/Whitethorn is a common hedgerow species but can also be grown as a standalone tree producing lots of flowers for pollinators and red haws in autumn for birds to enjoy. Hawthorn supports c.149 insect species.

Height: 15m

Blackthorn



Blackthorn provides a home for 109 insect species. Related to cherries and plums, the fruit of the blackthorn resemble small plums and are enjoyed by lots of animals, including wood mice, finches and foxes.

Height: 6-7m

Willow



Willow supports 266 insect species and 160 lichens. Goat or Grey willows are wonderful plants for pollinators as they provide lots of pollen and nectar in their tiny flowers in early spring when there is little else in flower. Willows can be grown easily from cuttings.

Height: 10m

Rowan



Rowan is also known as 'Mountain Ash' as it has similar leaves to the ash tree. Rowan supports 28 insects and 125 lichens. It is a very attractive tree, with white flower clusters in spring for pollinators, and red berries in autumn.

Height: 8-10m

Wild Cherry



Wild Cherry is a pretty native tree that will provide food for pollinators as well as fruit for birds. Its beautiful blossom makes it a popular choice for towns and parks.

Height: 18-25m

Crab Apple



Crab Apple can be found in many of our old native hedgerows. It supports 93 insect species, including pollinators, and crab apples provide food for birds and mammals in autumn.

Height: 10m

*Insect & lichen diversity based on UK Research and refers to Britain: Southwood, T.R.E (1961) The number of species of insect associated with various trees. *J. Animal Ecology* 30:1-8; Rose F. & Harding, P.T. (1978) Pasture and woodlands in Lowland Britain and their importance for the conservation of the epiphytes and invertebrates associated with old trees. Nature Conservancy Council & The Institute of Terrestrial Ecology