

KENT'S PLAN BEE



September 2021 Newsletter

Caterpillar Food Plants

September is the time for caterpillars to get themselves ready for winter by eating plants for energy to transform into butterflies the following spring. We put together some guides on which food plants caterpillars need for 10 different butterfly and moth species. Plant those flowers in your garden to help butterflies and moths throughout their whole lifecycle. Find the guides in our Resources and Information photo album on our Facebook Page:

Moth Caterpillar Food Plants:

<https://www.facebook.com/KentsPlanBee/photos/a.107187048198490/185346867049174>

Butterfly Caterpillar Food Plants:

<https://www.facebook.com/KentsPlanBee/photos/a.107187048198490/186008013649726>

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MOTH CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

Moths not only need plants to feed on (nectar for energy, as caterpillars they need to eat the leaves of plants as they can grow). Some caterpillars have very specific dietary requirements. Planting these plants in your garden will help moths throughout their whole life cycle.

Caterpillar	Food Plant	Adult
		

Buff Tip moth
Deciduous trees such as birch, oak, and hazel

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BUTTERFLY CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

Butterflies not only need plants to get nectar from, as caterpillars they need to eat the leaves of plants so they can grow. Some caterpillars have very specific dietary requirements. Planting these plants in your garden will help butterflies throughout their whole life cycle.

Caterpillar	Food Plant	Adult
		

Chalk Hill Blue
Horseshoe Vetch

Organic September

Soil Association created Organic September to raise awareness of climate and soil benefits of going organic. There are also lots of benefits for pollinators, as it helps improve their habitats and health. By organically growing herbs for pollinators, and soil-saving plants such as clover, you can improve the soil in your garden and improve your garden's overall health. For more information, visit the Soil Associations' webpage on Organic September:

https://www.soilassociation.org/take-action/organic-living/organic-september/?fbclid=IwAR1B7RuRXYXWgc8yt9nZjgpCeBBQ_5Xq2cZUTlbZyrvU-mwFJt-SloGxypA

New Gardening Resources

Autumn is the perfect time to get out into the garden. We have produced some new Gardening for Pollinator guides to help you with planning your garden over the winter, ready for next spring. From year-round plants for pollinators, to providing for pollinators' nesting needs, and ways to manage your lawn for wildflowers, there is a guide for you and your garden. Find them in our Resources and Information photo album on our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=KentsPlanBee&set=a.107187048198490>

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PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS

Nectar is a valuable fuel that keeps pollinators going, and they get this as a reward from the flowers they pollinate. Plant these flowers to help 'feed' the different pollinators living in your garden all year round:

Pollinators	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
Bee	• Blue • Dandelion • Lavender • Cornflower	• Alliums • Orange • Star's Buttons • Poppy	• Ivy • Dogbane • Honeysuckle • Stachys	• Cowslip • Hebe • Winter Heath
Butterflies	• Blue • Foxglove • Lavender • Poppy	• Bird's Foot Trefoil • Subbia • Marigold • Lavender	• Knapweed • Ivy • Hemp Agrimony • Honeysuckle	• Coal Willow • Winter Heath • Snowdrop

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POLLINATORS' NEEDS

Pollinators	Foraging Needs	Nesting Needs	What you can do
Bee	Nectar-rich flowers in the blue/purple light spectrum	Bee hotels, leaf litter, bare earth, nesting materials plants	Nectar-rich flower corridors, with undisturbed nature zones
Butterflies	Nectar-rich flowers in red/orange/yellow/cream colours	Make sure that the caterpillar food plants are also available	Plant clods of the same flower for butterflies to easily find
Moths	Flowers that produce nectar in the evenings e.g. Jasmine	Make sure that the caterpillar food plants are also available	Provide year round range of night-scented flowers
Wasps	Flit trees provide for most of the year: flowers & fruit	Wood pulp for hanging nests, bare earth for ground nests	Grow fruit trees as leave some wild/loose fruit

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MANAGING YOUR LAWN FOR POLLINATORS

Want to increase the flower diversity in your lawn to help pollinators in your garden? No matter how you use your garden, there is a way to manage it to benefit pollinators too.

If you can spare your own lawn area for pollinators that is great! Do not mow your lawn so often that you may have areas that are the lawn very dry, or children that play in the garden, and practice leaving the lawn uncut in an open, sunny area. Follow any tips on how often to mow your lawn given your circumstances, and the benefits that your 'open' or 'management' area for pollinators and you.

Leaving Long Grass

Cut once a year, once early spring to remove the winter growth and again late autumn/early winter. The leaves have gone to seed and dispersed in the lawn.

Benefits: Increases diversity of flowers, more open for pollinators. Leaves flowers to seed in the seed bed. If you do not have a big lawn, seed every year.

Creating Different Lawn Lengths

Mowing once a month can also support some flowers for pollinators, but try to leave corridors of patches of longer, uncut lawn where possible.

Benefits: Shorter flowers like daisies & cowslips, longer seeds and outside of grass provide in raised flower beds nearby. Paths give you easier access to grassy.

Autumn Gardening Tips – What to do in October?

Plant bulbs ready for next year. These are the perfect bulbs to plant for pollinators this month:



Build a bug hotel. Bug hotels are great protection for overwintering adult pollinators and their larvae. Make sure to fill your hotel with a mixture of these materials:

Bamboo Tubes	Pinecones	Leaf litter	Twigs and Dead Wood
			
<p>Solitary Bees lay their eggs in the tubes, and then seal them up with food inside for the larvae.</p>	<p>Small adult beetles and flies will use the gaps between the seed scales to overwinter in.</p>	<p>Queen bumblebees and adult beetles may use the leaf litter to hide in during the winter.</p>	<p>The small nooks in the bark are great to lay eggs, and some beetle larvae eat dead wood.</p>

Flowers for Autumn Pollinators. Perfect for feeding late-season pollinators:

<p>Bees and Wasps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ivy • Sedum • Honeysuckle • Scabious 	 	<p>Butterflies and Moths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honeysuckle • Ivy • Jasmine • Evening Primrose 	 
<p>Beetles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornflowers • Ivy • Meadowsweet • Wild carrot 	 	<p>Flies and Hoverflies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunflower • Sedum • Hemp agrimony • Blackberry 	 

Wildflowers to See in October

Bristly Oxtongue



Ivy



Gorse



What did we see in September?

September was a busy month for the last of the summer's pollinators. We saw Buff-tailed bumbles stocking up on last minute pollen, and second brood Red Admirals enjoying the warmer days. And let's not forget the numerous moths and their caterpillars still about at this time of year.



Buff-tailed Bumblebee



Red Admiral



Elephant Hawk Moth caterpillar



The Herald



Artichoke Plume



Garden Carpet

We would love to see your finds and are always looking for more photos to use in our Newsletters and on our Facebook page. If you would like to see your photos of pollinators featured, email your pictures to planbee@kent.gov.uk or post them on our Facebook page directly.

Gardening for a Wilder Kent Event 23rd Oct

Join Kent Wildlife Trust and their Gardening for a Wilder Kent team at an Open Garden event on the Saturday 23rd October in East Farleigh. Learn about and look for late-season pollinators, as well as a woodland walk in a beautiful 7-acre garden. This is a ticketed event so please head over to Kent Wildlife Trust's event webpage to book your ticket and avoid disappointment:

<https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/events>



Keep up to date with the latest news via our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/KentsPlanBee>



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Do you have a Kent pollinator news story or event that you would like featured in our newsletter? Have you created a pollinator friendly community space? Got your neighbours together to create a row of pollinator friendly gardens? Or do you have an event about how to help Kent's pollinators you would like advertised? Email it to the address below and we will be in contact about a potential space in the Newsletter.

planbee@kent.gov.uk

All the previous editions of the Newsletter have now been added to our webpage. You can download them as PDFs or share the website address on your social media. Find all the Newsletters on the Pollinators section of Kent County Council's website, or follow this link:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/nature-and-biodiversity/pollinators/kents-plan-bee-pollinator-action-plan/kents-plan-bee-newsletter>

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For a Pollinator Friendly Garden of England

