

WILDLIFE GARDENING

(2009)

WG 001

FOR FURTHER READING

Creating A Wildlife Garden – Bob and Liz Gibbons. 1992. Hamlyn.

How To Make a Wildlife Garden – Chris Baines. 1985. Elm Tree Books.

Wildlife Gardening – Fran Hill. 1988. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

Wildflower Gardening - Michael Jefferson-Brown. 1992. Cassell.

The National Trust Book of Wildflower Gardening John Stevens. 1987. Dorling Kindersley.

Gardening for Wildlife – 1999. Ulster Wildlife Trust.

Starting a Butterfly Garden – Peter Cawdell. 1987. School Garden Company.

Gardening for Butterflies – Madge Payne. 1987. British Butterfly Conservation Society.

Garden Plants for Butterflies – Matthew Oates. Brian Masterton & Associates Ltd.

Garden Plants Valuable to Bees – International Bee Research Association. 1992. IBRA

Successful Organic Gardening – Geoff Hamilton. 1987. Dorling Kindersley.

Herb Gardening – Claire Lowenfield. Faber.

WHY GARDEN FOR INSECTS?

In this world of increasing population, development, road building and intensive agriculture, there are fewer and fewer places for insects to feed and breed. By carefully selecting plants that are both good food and breeding sites for insects, we can make our own gardens an insect pub, almost like a little nature reserve, where they can feed and breed in safety. With a little careful planting, you can have your garden alive with butterflies, bees, hoverflies and moths. Apart from the joy of watching these insects, some of them are very important for the garden. Many play a crucial role in the pollination of all those flowers you have carefully planted and some, like the larvae of hoverflies, will eat aphids thus helping to keep pests in check. Not only this, but a garden planted for insects can also be a place of beauty, full of colour and pleasing to the eye.

HOW TO GARDEN FOR INSECTS

Gardening for insects does not involve more work. It does not also mean that you just leave your garden to become a wilderness. What it does involve is the careful selection of flowers for their usefulness for insects, a few changes in gardening practice and putting the garden chemicals away in the shed.

Many ornamental flowers have been specially bred for colour, but to insects, they are like eating at very expensive restaurants – the dishes are beautifully presented, but the portions are tiny, with little nectar. Native wildflowers are some of the best food plants for insects, but there are many non-natives that insects love. Buddleja, the Butterfly Bush, is one such example. Look at the plant lists for ideas of what to plant. Some gardening hints to take on board are as follows;

- Choose your plants so that the flowering period in your garden is as long as possible. Choose some early spring flowering plants for the early butterfly and some late autumn flowers for the late hoverfly.

- Dead heading, that is removing the flower head once it has flowered, can stimulate the plant to produce more flowers. However, it is also important to let flowers go to seed and let birds and insects eat those seeds. An idea is to deadhead flowers early in the season, say up to June and then let them all go to seed after this.

- Plant so that there is a good variety of species of different height and type. Have tall growing plants at the back of the bed grading down to low growing ones at the front. (see above diagram)

- Plant thickly so that there is little bare soil. This gives good shelter for insects. Also many wildflowers look better if planted in thick clumps. Do not prune and tidy up to the extent that you did before, especially in the breeding season. This does not mean that the garden should be messy, but just a little less orderly than before.

GARDENING FOR INSECTS



BUMBLE BEE



TORTOISESHELL BUTTERFLY

Our aim is to protect, conserve and promote the natural and built environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

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- Choose your plants so that you plant the right plants in shady and sunny positions and in damp and dry soils. Bees, butterflies and hoverflies prefer sunny sites, so the flowers that are best for these insects are best planted in sunny positions. Butterflies especially need sheltered areas to feed. If your sunniest spot is not sheltered, plant tall shrubs or a hedge to provide shelter.

- Some evergreen plants are good to have, because they give some winter shelter.

- In autumn, it is also good to leave some rotting fruit out on the lawn. Butterflies like the Red Admiral love them.

- Probably the most important tip is to avoid garden chemicals and pesticides and garden organically. Many pesticides kill more insects and animals than just the pest it is designed for. For example, slug pellets may kill Hedgehogs and Song Thrushes as they eat the poisoned slugs. Organic gardening books give many tips about how to combat pests without resorting to chemicals. For example, biological controls are available to combat slugs instead of pellets.

- It has been estimated that 80% of the insects in your garden are there to feed and 20% are there to breed. For this reason, leave a small area in the garden as a wild area. Nettle patches are excellent, because butterflies like the Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock lay their eggs on young nettles.

WHICH PLANT FOR WHICH INSECT?

Different insects like different plants and one reason is the length of their respective tongues. Butterflies' tongues are long, so they can get at nectar hidden deep in a flower. However, they also like a flower with large petals which they can land on. Bees also have long tongues, but being more compact, can get at and even crawl into more tubular flowers like Foxgloves. Most British Hoverflies however have short tongues, so they like open flowers like Tansy or Poached Egg Plant. Moths are different in that they are mostly night flying and so they go to flowers, like the Evening Primrose, which release their scent at night especially for them.

INSECTS AND BIRDS

Attracting a lot of insects into your garden can also attract more birds. Some come to hunt. There are numerous reports of Spotted Flycatchers waiting beside Buddleja bushes for butterflies. Others will come because many of the plants that you have planted for insects will also provide seeds or fruit for them. However, if you want to put in some plants especially for birds, berry and fruit bearing shrubs are the best. Some trees like Birch and Willow produce catkins which are popular for food. A good dense hedge is also good for cover and nesting.

PLANTERS, HANGING BASKETS AND WINDOW BOXES

You do not need to have a large garden to garden for insects. By using planters, hanging baskets or window boxes, you can also garden for insects if you live in a flat or in a terraced house. Using the same principles of choosing flowers that provide nectar and pollen for as long a period as is possible, you will also have success. Planters can be bought or easily made. Tyres stacked on top of each other, old kitchen pots, a half beer barrel, all of these can act as planters – just remember to water them regularly. Drainage is important and the bottom of the planter should be filled with stones or broken plant pots. When making hanging baskets, coir liners are recommended. If you use Sphagnum moss, this means that this important moss has been taken from our threatened peat bogs. As with wildflowers, collecting this moss in the wild without the landowners permission is illegal.

PLANT LISTS

These following lists contain plants that are good for insects. Most can be easily obtained from garden centres or as seeds from recognised seed stockists. These lists are not complete, but at least they serve as a guide.



WILLOW



NETTLES

TALL PLANTS

COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME	FLOWERING TIME	COLOUR	SOIL	ASPECT	INSECT
Hollyhock	<i>Althaea rosea</i>	Jul – Sep	Purple	Most	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be
Angelica	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Jul – Sep	White	Most	PtSh	Bu,Be,Ho
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Jun – Sep	Purple	Most	Sun,Sh	Be
Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Jul – Aug	Purple	Most	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Jul – Aug	Yellow	W-D	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Jul – Aug	Various	Most	Sun	Bu,Be
Lupin	<i>Lupinus spp</i>	May – Jul	Various	Most	Sun	Be
Broad Leaved Ragwort	<i>Senecio fluviatilis</i>	Aug – Sep	Yellow	Wet	Sun,Sh	Bu,Be,Ho
Golden-Rod	<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	Jul – Sep	Various	Rich	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Dark Mullein	<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	Jun - Sep	Yellow	Most	Sun	Bu,Be

W-D = Well Drained PtSh = Part Shade Sh = Shade Be = Bees Bu = Butterflies Ho = Hoverflies



OX-EYE DAISY



SUNFLOWER



DAFFODIL



FOXGLOVES

MEDIUM SIZED PLANTS

COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME	FLOWERING TIME	COLOUR	SOIL	ASPECT	INSECT
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Jul - Aug	White	W-D	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Michaelmas Daisy	<i>Aster novi-belgii</i>	Sep - Oct	Purple	Most	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Betony	<i>Betonica officinalis</i>	Jun - Sep	Pink	Most	Sun,Sh	Bu,Be
Margolds	<i>Calendula ssp</i>	May - Sep	Various	Most	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Canterbury Bell	<i>Campanula medium</i>	May - Jul	Various	W-D	Sun,PtSh	Be
Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Jul - Sep	Blue	All	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be
Common Knapweed	<i>Centaura nigra</i>	Jun - Sep	Pink	Moist	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be
Greater Knapweed	<i>Centaura scabiosa</i>	Ju - Aug	Purple	All	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be
Red Valerian	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	May - Sep	Red	Most	Sun	Bu,Be
Wallflower	<i>Cheiranthus cheiri</i>	Mar - May	Yellow	Most	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Shasta Daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum maximum</i>	Jun - Aug	White	W-D	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Aug - Sep	White	Most	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Delphinium	<i>Delphinium ssp</i>	Jun - July	Various	W-D	Sun	Bu,Be
Globe Thistle	<i>Echinops sphaerocephalus</i>	Jun - Aug	Grey	W-D	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Viper's Bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Jun - Sep	Blue	Most	Sun	Bu,Be
Erigeron	<i>Erigeron ssp</i>	Jun - Oct	Various	Most	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be,Ho
Hemp Agrimony	<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Jul - Sep	Pink	Moist	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be
Meadow Cranesbill	<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Jun - Aug	Blue	Most	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be
Cherry Pie	<i>Heliotropium x hybridum</i>	Aug	Purple	W-D	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Sweet Rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	May - Jul	Pink	Rich	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be,Ho
Hyssop	<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>	May - Jun	Pink/Wh	W-D	Sun	Bu,Be
Field Scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Jul - Aug	Blue	W-D	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
White Dead-Nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>	Apr - Oct	White	Most	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be
Ox-Eye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Jun - Aug	Wh/Yel	Most	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be,Ho
Common Toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Jun - Oct	Yellow	Most	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be
Honesty	<i>Lunaria annua</i>	Apr - Jun	Purple	W-D	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Ragged Robin	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	May - Jun	Pink	Moist	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be
Yellow Loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia punctata</i>	Jun - Aug	Yellow	Most	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be,Ho
Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Jun - Aug	Purple	Moist	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be
Musk Mallow	<i>Malva moschata</i>	Jul - Sep	Purple	All	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be
Bergamot	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Jun - Sep	Various	Moist	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be
Daffodil	<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>	Apr - May	Yellow	Most	Sun,Sh	Be
Catmint	<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	Jun - Sep	Purp/Yel	Moist	Sun,PtSh	Bu
Tobacco Plant	<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i>	Jun - Oct	Purple	Most	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be
Fragrant Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera stricta</i>	Jun - Aug	Yellow	Dry	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Phlox	<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	Jun - Aug	Various	Most	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be
Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	May - Jun	White	Light	Sh	Bu,Be
Mignonette	<i>Reseda lutea</i>	May - Sep	Various	W-D	Sun	Bu,Be
Soapwort	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Jul - Sep	Pink	Rich	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Ice Plant	<i>Sedum spectabile</i>	Sep	Pink	Most	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>	Apr - Jul	Red	Most	Sun,Sh	Bu,Be
Night Flowering Catchfly	<i>Silene noctiflora</i>	Jun - Aug	Pink	Dry	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Nottingham Catchfly	<i>Silene nutans</i>	May - Aug	White	Dry	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Bladder Campion	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	May - Sep	White	Most	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Devil's Bit Scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Aug - Sep	Blue	Most	PtSh,Sh	Bu,Be,Ho
Tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Jul - Aug	Yellow	Most	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Spiked Speedwell	<i>Veronica spicata</i>	Jun - Aug	Blue	W-D	Sun,PtSh	Be,Ho

ATTRACTIVE HERBS FOR INSECTS

COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME	FLOWERING TIME	COLOUR	SOIL	ASPECT	INSECT
Borage	<i>Borago officinalis</i>	May - Aug	Blue	W-D	Sun	Bu,Be
Chicory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Jul-Oct	Blue	Light	Sun	Bu,Be
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Jul - Aug	Yellow	Most	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Lavender	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	Jul - Aug	Purple	W-D	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Lemon Balm	<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	Jul - Sep	White	Most	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Peppermint	<i>Mentha piperita</i>	Jul - Sep	Purple	Rich	PtSh	Bu,Be,Ho
Spearmint	<i>Mentha spicata</i>	Jul - Oct	Purple	Rich	PtSh	Bu,Be,Ho
Sweet Basil	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	Jul - Aug	White	Rich	Sun	Bu,Be
Marjoram	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Jul - Sep	Purple	W-D	Sun	Bu,Be
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Apr - May	Blue	W-D	Sun	Bu,Be
Sage	<i>Salvia officinalis</i>	Jun - Jul	Purp/Wh	W-D	Sun	Bu,Be
Comfrey	<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	May - Jun	Purple	Rich	Sun,PtSh	Be
Feverfew	<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	Jun - Sep	White	Most	Sun,PtSh	Bu,Be,Ho
Thyme	<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Jun - Aug	Purple	W-D	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho

W-D = Well Drained PtSh = Part Shade Sh = Shade Be = Bees Bu = Butterflies Ho = Hoverflies



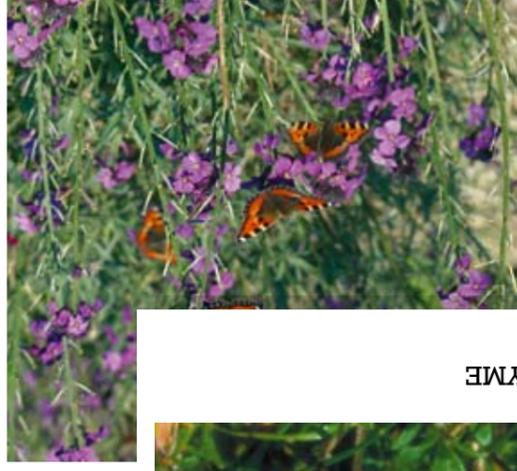
LAVENDER



BUMBLE BEE



THYME



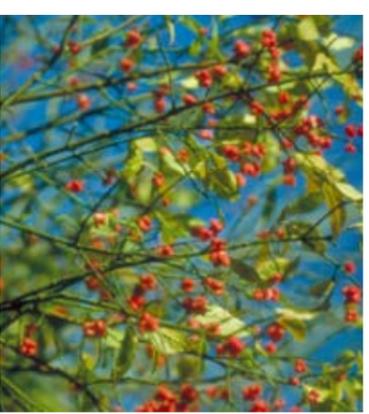
TORTOISESHELL BUTTERFLY

Wh = White
Pu = Purple
Pi = Pink
Bl = Blue
Ri = Rich
W-D = Well Drained
PtSh = Part Shade
Sh = Shade
Be = Bees
Bu = Butterflies
Ho = Hoverflies

SHRUBS FOR INSECTS

COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME	FLOWERING TIME	COLOUR	BERRIES	SOIL	ASPECT
Barberry	Berberis spp	May – Jun	Yellow	Yes	Most	Sun
Buddleja	Buddleja davidii	Jul – Aug	Purple	No	Most	Sun
Orange Ball Tree	Buddleja globosa	Jun – Aug	Orange	No	Dry	Sun,PtSh
Buddleja	Buddleja weyerana	Jul – Oct	Purple	No	Most	Sun
Box	Buxus sempervirens	Apr	White	No	Most	Sun,PtSh
Californian Lilac	Ceanothus "Autumnal Blue"	Jul – Oct	Lilac	No	Most	Sun
Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster frigida	Jun – Jul	White	Yes	Most	Sun,Sh
Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster horizontalis	May – Jun	White	Yes	Most	PtSh,Sh
Quince	Cydonia oblonga	Mar – Apr	Various	Yes	Most	Sun
Broom	Cytisus praecox	May – Jun	Yellow	No	Dry	Sun
Broom	Cytisus scoparius	May – Jun	Yellow	No	Dry	Sun
Mezereon	Daphne mezereum	Feb – Mar	Red	Yes	Most	Sun,PtSh
Escallonia	Escallonia spp	Jun – Sep	Pink	No	Most	Sun
Spindle-Tree	Euonymus europaeus	May – Jun	White	Yes	Most	Sun
Fuchsia	Fuchsia spp	Jul – Sep	Red	No	Most	Sun,PtSh
Hebe	Hebe spp	Jun – Sep	Various	No	Most	Sun
Daisy Bush	Olearia haastii	Jul – Aug	White	No	Most	Sh
Shrubby Cinquefoil	Potentilla fruticosa	May - Jul	Yellow	No	Most	Sun,Sh
Flowering Curran	Ribes sanguineum	Mar – Apr	Red	Yes	Most	Sun,PtSh
Shrub Ragwort	Senecio greyi	Jun – Aug	Yellow	No	Most	Sun
Skimmia	Skimmia japonica	Mar – Apr	White	Yes	Most	Sh
Bridal-spray	Spiraea arguta	Apr – May	White	No	Most	Sh
Gorse	Ulex europaeus	Apr – May	Yellow	No	Most	Sun,PtSh
Viburnum	Viburnum bodnantense	Winter	White	Yes	Most	Sh
Guelder Rose	Viburnum opulus	May - Jul	White	Yes	Moist	Sun

W-D = Well Drained PtSh = Part Shade Sh = Shade



SPINDLE BERRIES



FUSCHIA



BROOM

SMALL INSECT ATTRACTING PLANTS FOR THE GARDEN

COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME	FLOWERING TIME	COLOUR	SOIL	ASPECT	INSECT
Bugle*	Ajuga reptans	May - Sep	Purple	Most	Sun, PtSh	Be
Golden Alyssum	Alyssum saxatile	Jun - Aug	White	W-D	Full sun	Bu,Be,Ho
White Rockcress	Arabis albida	Mar – May	Pink/Pu	W-D	PtSh	Bu,Be,Ho
Aubretia	Aubretia deltoidea	Apr – June	Red/Pu	W-D	Sun	Bu,Be
Autumn Crocus	Colchicum autumnale	Aug – Oct	Pink	Any	Sun, PtSh	Be
Lily of the Valley*	Convallaria Majalis	Apr – May	White	Moist	PtSh	Be
Crocus	Crocus spp	Feb – Mar	Various	W-D	Shelter	Bu,Be
Maiden Pink	Dianthus deltoides	May – Aug	Pink	Dry	Sun	Be,Bu
Wild Strawberry*	Fragaria vesca	May – Aug	White	Moist	Shade	Ho
Snowdrop	Galanthus nivalis	Jan – Mar	White	Moist	Sun, Sh	Be
Candytuft	Iberis umbellata	Jul – Aug	Wh/Pi/Pu	W-D	Sun	Bu,Be
Poached-Egg-Plant*	Limnanthes douglasii	May – Jun	White	Most	Sun, PtSh	Be,Ho
Garden Lobelia	Lobelia erinus	May – Aug	Bl/Pi/Wh	Moist	PtSh	Bu,Be
Creeping Jenny*	Lysimachia nummularia	Jun – Jul	Yellow	Damp	PtSh	Be,Ho
Grape Hyacinth	Muscari spp	Apr – May	Purple	W-D	Sun	Bu,Be
Water Forget-Me-Not	Myosotis scorpioides	Apr – May	Blue	Moist	PtSh	Bu,Be,Ho
Tormentil	Potentilla erecta	May – Oct	Yellow	Moist	Sun	Bu,Be,Ho
Cowslip	Primula veris	Apr – May	Yellow	Moist	Sun, PtSh	Bu,Be
Primrose	Primula vulgaris	Apr – May	Yellow	Moist	Sun, Sh	Bu,Be
Polyanthus	Primula vulgaris elatior	Apr – May	Various	Moist	Sun, Sh	Bu,Be
Self Heal*	Prunella vulgaris	Jun – Jul	Purple	Moist	Sun, PtSh	Be,Ho
Dandelion	Taraxacum officinale	Mar – Sep	Yellow	Moist	Sun, PtSh	Bu,Be,Ho
Red Clover	Trifolium pratense	Mar – Sep	Red	Moist	Sun, PtSh	Bu,Be
Lesser Periwinkle*	Vinca minor	Mar - Sep	Blue	Moist	Sun, Sh	Bu,Be



DANDELION



PRIMROSE



SNOWDROPS



COWSLIP

* = Good Ground Cover Plant Wh = White Pu = Purple Pi = Pink Bl = Blue Ri = Rich
W-D = Well Drained PtSh = Part Shade Sh = Shade Be = Bees Bu = Butterflies Ho = Hoverflies