

# PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS

## ***Galanthus nivalis*** (Snowdrop)

One of the earliest bulbs to flower, providing much-needed nectar for over-wintering insects, as well as being a welcome sight for Winter-weary humans.

## ***Aquilegia vulgaris*** (Columbine/Granny's Bonnet)

Pretty cottage garden staple that is happy in all but the deepest shade. I love a very pale pink paired with *Nectaroscordum siculum* bulbs – they're in flower at the same time.

## ***Digitalis lutea*** (Small Yellow Foxglove)

A diminutive perennial alternative to our native foxglove which attracts bees and hoverflies. Pretty yellow flowers in early Summer. (Toxic if ingested)

## ***Angelica archangelica*** (Angelica)

Statuesque umbellifer looking like a giant cow parsley. Adored by pollinating insects of all kinds including butterflies, moths and bees. Adds wow factor to a partially-shaded border.

## ***Nectaroscordum siculum*** (Sicilian Honey Garlic)

Few alliums will grow in shade, but sicilian honey garlic will manage well in dappled shade. They have beautiful starburst-shaped flowerheads, less showy than some alliums but nonetheless lovely.

## ***Viburnum opulus* 'Roseum'** (Guelder Rose)

*Viburnum opulus* is predominantly pollinated by hoverflies and beetles. Its huge white flowerheads are often mistaken for those of hydrangeas. It's shade tolerant, growing to between 2 and 4 metres tall. For a real wow factor, try the cultivar 'Roseum' (snowball tree), which has amazing pompom-like flowerheads.

## ***Fatsyhedera lizei*** (Bush Ivy)

A hybrid of common ivy and Japanese aralia which can be trained to grow upwards rather than suckering, so doesn't damage brickwork. It has large, glossy, evergreen leaves and white flowers in October-November, providing food for solitary bees and flies at a time when other flowers are scarce.

## ***Prunus spinosa*** (Blackthorn/Sloe)

Early-flowering shrub or small tree that provides nectar for early bees from a profusion of small white flowers. Also great for making sloe gin from the fruits in Autumn.

## ***Campanula persicifolia*** 'Grandiflora Alba' (Bellflower)

A lovely variety of bellflower with nodding harebell-type flowers on tall, slender stems growing up to a metre tall. Bells provide food for bees.

## ***Penstemon* 'Raven'** (Beard Tongue)

Deep rich purple trumpets on tall stems that can tolerate some shade, and will repeat-flower into Autumn if pruned after first flowering. Attractive to bumblebees.



# SHADED GARDENS

***Helleborus* varieties  
(Hellebores)**

Winter staple with a variety for every garden. *Helleborus viridis* is native to the UK and has exciting lime-green flowers. Softer, earlier-flowering options are the various *x hybridus* varieties with flower colours ranging from cream to soft apricot to speckled crimson, to darkest purple, and all appealing to large bee species.

***Primula vulgaris*  
(Common Primrose)**

Native primrose that will grow happily in partial shade and is pollinated by bees and hairy flies. For the wild gardener, try naturalising in your lawn for a lovely Spring scene in March and April.

***Lonicera perclymenum*  
(English Honeysuckle)**

Pollinating moths are attracted to the sweet scent of honeysuckle at night. For smaller gardens try the compact forms 'Rhubarb and Custard' or 'Chic et Choc' which can be grown in containers as well as in the ground.

***Cardamine pratensis*  
(Cuckoo Flower)**

Lovely UK native that provides food for the larvae of the orange-tip butterfly. Delicate pale mauve blooms light up a shady spot.

***Allium ursinum*  
(Ramson/Wild Garlic)**

Native allium seen all over woodlands and banks in dappled shade. Pollinated by longhorn beetles, hoverflies and butterflies, and the leaves are great for making pesto.

***Aconitum napellus*  
'Pink Sensation'  
(Monkshood)**

An unusual monkshood which looks lovely combined with yellows and burgundy shades and provides food over a long flowering period into late Summer for long-tongued bumblebees. Happy in light to moderate shade. (Toxic if ingested)

***Aster stokesia laevis* 'Alba'  
(Cornflower Aster)**

Beautifully-shaped aster that resembles a cornflower, extends the Summer garden well into Autumn. The white form appeals to bees and hoverflies, and the purple forms are popular with butterflies.

***Galium odoratum*  
(Sweet Woodruff)**

Pretty and fragrant woodlander that grows as a groundcover plant in moist soils in partial to full shade. Pollinated by flies and bees.

***Lamprocapnos spectabilis*  
(Bleeding Heart)**

Sprays of unusual heart-shaped flowers are a delight to both humans and bees. Long flowering season and available in shades from white to dark pink.

***Dipsacus fullonum*  
(Teasel)**

Teasels look as lovely in a garden as in a wild setting, and are beloved by butterflies for their flowers as well as by goldfinches once set to seed. Will grow in part-shade.

***Actaea simplex*  
'Atropurpurea'  
(Bugbane)**

Adds graceful height to a shady border with waving stately bottlebrush-shaped flowers in September and October above attractive burgundy foliage. Attracts bees, butterflies and moths.

WINTER

SPRING

SUMMER

AUTUMN

MISSION  
INVERTEBRATE



THE ROYAL PARKS