

PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS

Clematis cirrhosa **(Winter Clematis)**

Evergreen climber that flowers throughout Winter, providing food for the first honeybees and queen bumblebees. Combines beautifully with hellebores - try the variety 'Balearica' for its lemon-scented pale yellow flowers speckled with dusky pink.

Fritillaria meleagris **(Snake's Head Fritillary)**

There is some debate as to whether these bulbs are a UK native - called a 'snake's head' fritillary because their nodding, chequerboard heads resemble those of a snake. Try a naturalising sweep of these in your lawn to provide early food for bees.

Anemone coronaria **De Caen Group** **(Poppy Anemone)**

Bright, Spring-flowering tubers in which both foliage and flower is reminiscent of poppies. Try the De Caen Group varieties which have simpler flower structure for pollinators to access, in rich, deep shades of blue, purple and burgundy.

Papaver Somniferum **'Lauren's Grape'** **(Opium Poppy)**

Opium poppies are one of the earliest plants to be cultivated by humans. 'Lauren's Grape' is a more recent variety with wonderful deep crimson flowers that are attractive to bees and flies.

Allium amethystinum 'Forelock' **(Amethyst Allium)**

A tall summer-flowering allium that grows a tufty 'mohican' haircut as it flowers, as well as providing a solid platform for heavier bees to land on to feed.

Centaurea cyanus **(Cornflower)**

Iconic meadow annual which will keep flowering from June through to November if you keep deadheading as each flower fades. Loved by all sorts of bees, including several wild bee species which store cornflower pollen for their young.

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.

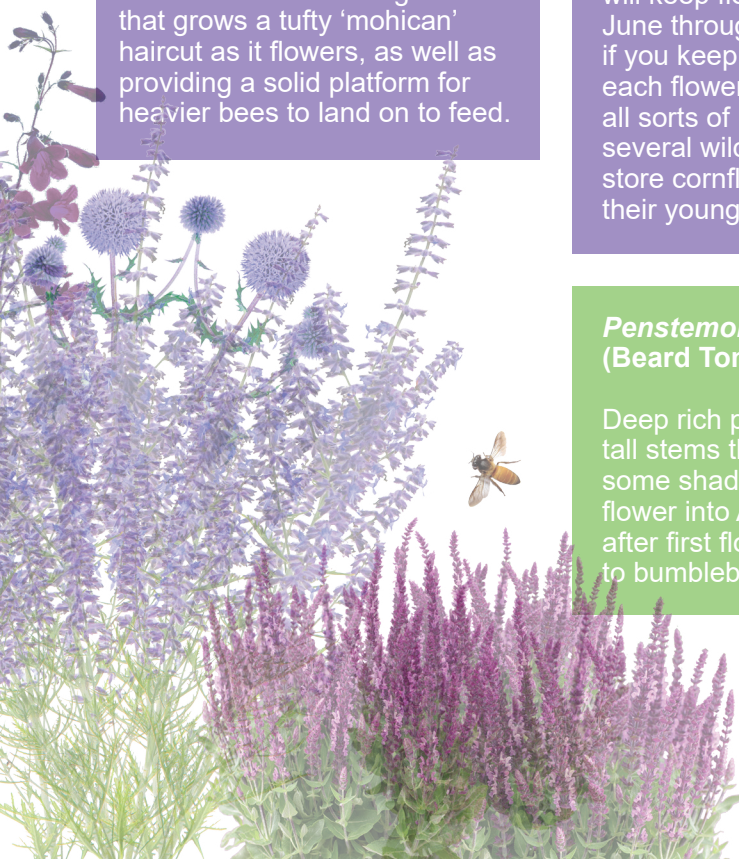
Rosa complicata **(Wild Rose)**

Wild roses and their hybrids not only look more contemporary than their more showy cousins, but their open flower shapes are much easier for pollinators to access. *Rosa complicata* is believed to be a hybrid of our native British dog-rose and a crimson gallic rose.

Buddleja x weyeriana **'Moonlight'** **(Weyer Butterfly Bush)**

If the vigorous nature of traditional davidii buddlejas worries you in a smaller garden, try this hybrid with buddleja globosa. It is just as appealing to butterflies but not as much of a self-seeder or vigorous grower, and flowers a little later - often into October.

SUNNY GARDENS



Viburnum bodnantense
(Bodnant's Viburnum)

Winter-scented plants often have the most intense fragrances as they compete to attract pollinating insects. *Viburnum bodnantense*, is no exception. Flowering from November through to March, it's a star of the Winter garden. Its upright branches form an elegant vase shape and are smothered in highly-scented sugar-pink flowers. Plant in your front garden or beside a path to best enjoy its fragrance when you're not out in your garden so much in the cold weather.

Allium atropurpureum
(Very Dark Purple Allium)

Globe-shaped alliums have been a bit over-used in garden design in recent years, but this unusual rich purple starburst-shaped form looks wonderful when combined with blues and wine reds and attracts butterflies, moths and bees.

Salvia nemorosa
'Sensation Deep Rose'
(Balkan Clary)

A late-flowering salvia with deep burgundy buds and dusky rose flowers that are a magnet for bees. It's more compact than most others in the nemorosa family of salvias, so is very suitable for smaller spaces and pots. It has lovely aromatic foliage, so is also lovely in a window box or close to a pathway. Prune after first flowering to encourage a second flush in Autumn.

Crocus chrysanthus
'Cream Beauty' (Snow Crocus)

An unusual pale yellow variety of crocus which is one of the earliest to bloom, hence its colloquial name 'snow crocus'. It blooms from early February and provides nectar for the first solitary, honey and bumblebees.

Primula veris
(Cowslip)

A native perennial with cup-shaped yellow flowers that nod on upright stems. It is very versatile in light conditions, happy on grassy banks in full sun or under dappled shade. The flowers, appearing in mid to late Spring are a magnet for long-tongued bees, butterflies, moths and bee-flies.

***Buddleja davidii* 'Royal Red'**
(Butterfly Bush)

Known colloquially as 'Butterfly Bush' for a reason. In July through to September you'll find its large panicles of flowers smothered in butterflies, and it's also appealing to moths and bees. 'Royal Red' is a beautiful deep crimson. Also try 'Black Knight' and 'Empire Blue' for deep velvety flower colours.

Perovskia atriplicifolia
(Russian Sage)

Spreading fans of aromatic, violet-blue tubular flowers above silver foliage are covered with bees, butterflies and hoverflies all summer long. Plant near a sunny seating area to enjoy the gorgeous scent and the buzzing of bees.

Echinops ritro
(Globe Thistle)

Flowerheads begin as steely-blue, spiky-looking globes, and then in July tiny star-shaped blue flowers burst out. Provides a secure landing spot for even the heaviest bumblebees. Combines beautifully with *Perovskia atriplicifolia*.

***Dahlia* 'Bishop of Leicester'**
(Dahlia)

Single dahlias (as opposed to the 'pom pom' or 'Dinnerplate' varieties) are ideal for attracting bees and other pollinators in late summer. 'Bishop of Leicester' had dusky mauve flowers that contrast beautifully with its deep burgundy foliage.

WINTER

SPRING

SUMMER

AUTUMN

