

KENT'S PLAN BEE



30 Days Wild for Pollinators – 15th-21st June

Day 15: Save a bumblebee. There are lots of simple ways to help a bee. From aiding a confused bee out of your house, to moving a stranded bee off a pavement and putting them safely in some flowers. On these hot summer days, leaving some water in the garden will be greatly appreciated, and as a last resort for an exhausted bee, you can give it some sugar water.

Day 16: Wasp, honeybee, or hoverfly. All three of these black and yellow insects are pollinators, but it can be hard to tell the difference between them. Wasps have hairless bodies and a loud, persistent buzz. Honeybees have fuzzy bodies and are more golden than the vivid yellow of wasps and hoverflies. Hoverflies are generally quieter and hover, plus they cannot sting you (they mimic the colours of wasps and bees, which do sting, to ward off predators).

Day 17: Invite a friend into nature. Call up your friend and invite them for a walk in nature, through a park or reserve, and see who can spot the most pollinators. Don't fancy a walk? Why not invite them to your garden and spot pollinators flitting between the flowers.

Day 18: Listen to the Buzz. Head outside today and spend 5-10 minutes listening to the insects buzzing around.

Day 19: Plant for the future. Pollinators need flowers all year round, not just in the summer. Now is a great time to think about planting for autumn, and even planning for next year's spring bulbs.

Day 20: BioBlitz your garden. An easy way to find out what is in your garden is to conduct a BioBlitz. This is an intense survey over a short amount of time where you record as many species as possible. You will need a pen and paper to record what you see, a camera to photograph any thing you want to identify later, and maybe some binoculars for those species that are too fast to catch. You can stick to pollinators or expand to record everything you find.

Day 21: Identify day flying moths. You may be surprised to hear that not all moths come out at night, some are in flight during the day and will pollinate flowers. Some of them are just as colourful as any butterfly. To tell the difference between moths and butterflies, look at how they hold their wings when resting; butterflies hold their wings together, moths lay theirs out flat. Use the tick sheet from the Wildlife Trust website to keep track of which moths you have seen <https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/Daymoths.jpg>



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