

KENT'S PLAN BEE



30 Days Wild for Pollinators – Activity Ideas

Day 1: What is a Pollinator?

A pollinator is anything that helps transfer pollen from the male part of a flower to the female part of the same or another flower. In the UK, all our pollinators are invertebrates. Which pollinators have you seen recently?

Day 2: Leave your Lawn.

Today's activity is super easy, leave the lawn mower in the shed! If you took part in "No Mow May" why not continue to leave swathes of (or even better all) your lawn uncut throughout June as well. Long, uncut grass provides many benefits for pollinators and wildlife in general. From shelter and security, to increased nectar sources from the additional flowers now available in your lawn, the benefits are endless.

Day 3: Garden Plants for Pollinators.

Head out to a garden centre to pick up some pollinator friendly flowers, ready to plant in your garden. Head to the [Wildlife Watch website from the Wildlife Trust](#) for a list of some flowers that are attractive to pollinators.

Day 4: Build a bee water station.

As well as a nectar and pollen food source, pollinators also need water to survive. This weekend, why not think about adding a watering station to your garden. You can do this easily by filling an old bird bath or water tray for a plant pot with some stones and a shallow amount of water. The stones stop the insects getting wet when drinking. Follow our instruction sheet, available on our [Facebook page Resources and Information album](#).

Day 5: World Environment Day.

Pollinators play such an important role in the environment but in the UK, we have lost many of the habitats that support them. There are fewer wildflower meadows, so less food and less shelter for pollinators. Let's ensure that we restore these important wildflower meadow areas! Read about how [Plantlife are working to restore grassland on their website](#).

Day 6: Sew a Mini Garden Meadow.

If you have a spare patch of garden and want to turn it into something wonderful for pollinators, why not sew some meadow flower seeds to grow your own mini garden meadow. You can read how to do this on this [Wildlife Trust instruction sheet, available on the Wildlife Wate website](#).

Day 7: Garden Rainbow.

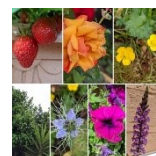
A fun activity you can do in your garden is searching for a rainbow. Take a photo of anything in the garden for every colour in the rainbow. You could photograph a variety of things, from flowers to fruit, plant pots to watering cans!



Day 2: Leave your lawn.



Day 4: Build a bee water station.



Day 7: Garden Rainbow.



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Day 8: Follow a bumblebee.

Keeping a distance away so as not to upset it, watch a bumblebee as it flits between flowers, busy as can be. See how it bumbles along and listen to the buzz of its wings. How long can you follow your bee for?

Day 9: Build a bug hotel.

Building a bug hotel is a great way to provide space for pollinators in your garden. You will need a range of different supplies to build a hotel. Start with a container and fill it with hollow bamboo canes, pinecones, and other garden materials that will provide places for insects to shelter and lay their eggs. If you are stuck, the [Wildlife Trust have an instruction sheet you can follow on their website.](#)

Day 10: Identify a bee.

Kent has over 200 species of bee, so today when you see a bee, try to identify which species you have found. The [Bumblebee Conservation Trust have a great identification webpage](#) if you need some help figuring out which bee you have found.

Day 11: Find a camouflaged creature.

Camouflage is an amazing example of evolution, where a creature looks like its surroundings to avoid being seen. Many pollinators are camouflaged to avoid being eaten by predators. There are moths that blend into bark, or butterflies that look like leaves. Try and find a camouflaged creature, it will be extra hard finding something that doesn't want to be found but that's half the fun of this activity.

Day 12: Butterflies and moths to see this month.

June is a great month for butterflies and moths. Next time you are outside, look out for butterflies and moths and try to identify the ones you see. If you are struggling with identification, try using the [Butterfly Conservation identification tool on their website.](#)

Day 13: Make your own seed paper.

It's super easy to make your own seed paper from kitchen roll, PVA glue and a packet of seeds. Cut out a shape from the kitchen roll and separate the layers. Glue the seeds to the inside of one layer and then glue the other layer on top. When you plant your seed paper, add lots of water to help the kitchen roll mulch down and the seeds will grow.

Day 14: Identify wildflowers.

Flowers are everywhere, from fields to cracks in the pavement. Why not challenge yourself to find and identify 5 flowers on your next walk. Use our [Wildflower Reference Sheet](#) from our Facebook page Resources and Information album to help you identify your finds.



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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 anything 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 [moth tick sheet from the Wildlife Trust "Wildlife Watch" website](#) to keep track of which moths you have seen.



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Day 22: Celebrate the Cinnabar.

The Cinnabar moth is an amazing black and red dayflying moth. The Cinnabar caterpillars are just as exciting, with black and orange stripes, and can be found eating their favourite food, common ragwort. Can you find a Cinnabar moth today?

Day 23: Find a Beetle.

Did you know that beetles can be pollinators? There are many beetle species in Kent. Use [this guide from the Wild About Garden webpage](#) to find out how to help beetles, and tick off the ones you see on the spotting sheet.

Day 24: Release a muddled moth.

Have you found a moth who has accidentally flown into your house, but is now so muddled it cannot find its way out? You can help by carefully catching it using a glass and piece of paper and releasing it outside.

Day 25: Read a pollinator book.

Pick a book on your favourite pollinator and head into a literary adventure. If the weather is nice, you could even read outside. We have a [great list of our favourite books](#), available on our Facebook Page.

Day 26: Sweep like an entomologist.

An entomologist is a scientist who specialises in insects. You can become one for the day by sweeping a net gently back and forth through long grass and identifying the insects you find.

Day 27: What's the Buzz?

Sign up to an invertebrate newsletter or blog. It's a great way to have the latest news on pollinators delivered straight to your email inbox. There are plenty to choose from: The Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Buglife, the Butterfly Trust all have interesting newsletters and blogs. Plus, don't forget the Kent's Plan Bee monthly newsletter!

Day 28: Check on your plants.

Did you plant any flowers or seeds at the beginning of the month? Check in on them to see how big they are and if any pollinators are visiting them.

Day 29: Pledge for pollinators.

If you want to do more for pollinators outside of your garden, why not sign up to volunteer for pollinators. There are lots of pollinator projects happening in Kent that you could get involved with. You can read about them in our [previous blog on the Explore Kent website](#).

Day 30: Your 30 Days Wild.

Use today to reflect on your 30 Days Wild and what you have done and learnt. You can always carry on going and do something every day for the next year to connect you to pollinators and nature. Can you go 365 Days Wild for pollinators?

Don't forget to share with us what you get up to on your 30 Days Wild for Pollinators. Tag us on Facebook @KentsPlanBee to show us what you're doing!

