

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR GARDEN

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Encouraging biodiversity is a key aim of the Superbloom project and the seeds that you have been provided with have been chosen because they are attractive to pollinators.

One way to ensure you encourage wildlife is to adopt the ethos that a garden is a shared space for people, plants and wildlife. When thinking about encouraging more wildlife into your garden, the first step it to remember that all living things need opportunities for survival and reproduction. This means ensuring our gardens and grounds have areas where wildlife can find:

- **Food**
- **Water**
- **Shelter from the weather and predators**
- **Sheltered places to raise young**

The specifics of this will be different depending on the species.

It is also important to notice what wildlife already exists within your school's grounds, so that you can give it the right kind of support. Trying to minimise any habitat loss for the wildlife you have already is a simple first step. This way you can ensure that you consider how best to use the space and make changes to it.

Feeders, leaving areas to go wild (if you have the space), leaving areas of school fields uncut, or creating homes for wildlife are just some of the ways you can support biodiversity.

There is a lot of great information on the internet to support you.

Bird feeders:

www.thrive.org.uk/how-we-help/gardening-advice/gardening-tips/create-homemade-bird-feeder

Bug hotels:

www.thrive.org.uk/how-we-help/what-we-do/new-and-updates/boost-your-garden-by-building-a-bug-hotel

Creating wildlife gardens:

<https://www.thrive.org.uk/how-we-help/gardening-advice/gardening-tips/7-steps-to-creating-a-successful-wildlife-garden>

Depending on where your school is located in the UK, your garden will attract different species of insects and pollinators at different times through spring, summer and autumn.

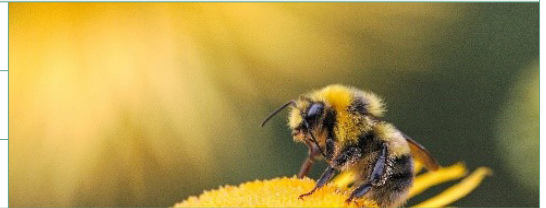
Why not get your students hunting for different varieties of these species? You can use the list below or adapt it as you like. Try using an insect app on a tablet or phone while students are out in the garden to help identify the insects and pollinators they see.

Bees

Honeybee

Bumble Bee

Solitary Bee



Butterflies

Tortoiseshell

Comma

Cabbage White

Painted Lady

Small White

Meadow Brown

Large White

Holly Blue

Peacock

Orange Tip

Red Admiral

Small Copper



Moths

Silvery Moth

Burnished Brass

Six-Spot Burnet

Cinnabar

Hummingbird Hawkmoth

Angle Shades

Garden Tiger

Elephant Hawk Moth



Hoverfly

Marmalade Hoverfly

Brown Hoverfly

Bumblebee Hoverfly



Beetle

False Oil Beetle

Red Soldier Beetle

Longhorn Beetle

Thick-Legged Flower Beetle



Wasp

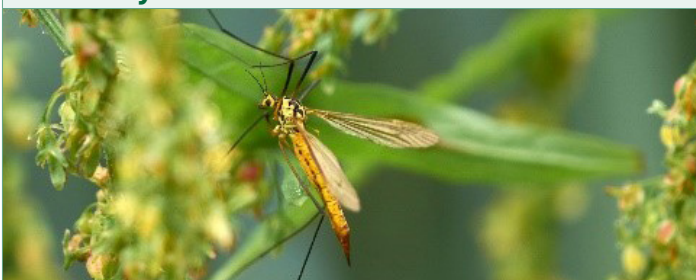
Common Wasp

Tree Wasp

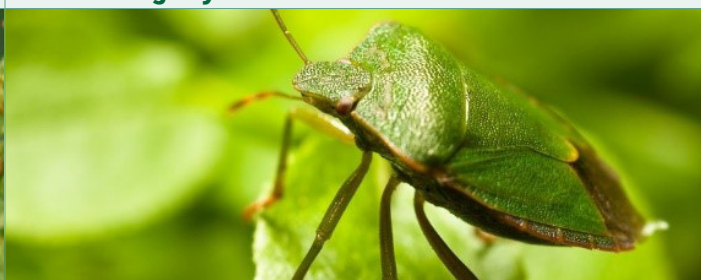
Rudd's Ruby-tailed Wasp



Crane Fly



Shieldbug Fly



Garden Spider



Woodlouse



Centipede





Flower pressing is a great activity for students. The best time to press flowers often coincides with quieter times in the garden, when most of the gardening tasks have been completed. Once your flowers are pressed, they can be used for art and craft projects.

You can find more information about flower pressing here:

www.thrive.org.uk/how-we-help/gardening-advice/gardening-tips/flower-pressing

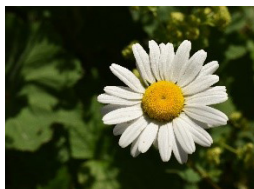


YOU WILL NEED:

Flower press or large book – tissue or blotting paper

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INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Cut healthy flowers or leaves from the plant (the flatter they are to start with the better).



2. Place in a flower press with tissue paper on each side like a sandwich, with the flower as the filling.



3. Leave for 1-6 months to dry out and then carefully remove from the tissue.