

Allotment Wildlife Features

Habitat Feature	Value for Pollinators and Other Wildlife	Management	Link to Further Info
Scrub	<p>Native shrubs and trees produce flowers which are an important source of nectar for pollinators. The larvae of some insects (e.g. butterfly and moth caterpillars) will also feed on the leaves.</p> <p>Scrub provides food and nesting opportunities for birds, hedgehogs, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians.</p> <p>Maintenance of scrub is important to retain a varied structure and prevent encroachment onto other habitats.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cut back scrub during Winter. - January/February is the best time to cut scrub to avoid removing nuts and berries which can be an important source of food for wildlife in the Winter. - Different sections can be cut on rotation to create a varied structure, although bramble scrub may need to be cut back annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KWT Land Mgt Advice Sheet 7 - Scrub -value for wildlife&mgt.pdf (kentwildlifetrust.org.uk)
Tussocky grassland	<p>Long grass which is only cut every few years provides an undisturbed area for nesting insects such as bumblebees.</p> <p>Having areas of grass that are uncut over winter allows some insect species to complete their life cycle.</p> <p>It also provides cover for small mammals, amphibians and reptiles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Areas of tussocky grassland should be split into sections, with different sections cut on rotation each year (in late August/September). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rough grassland - Farm Wildlife - Grassland management for invertebrates Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Fruit tree	<p>Fruit trees produce blossom in spring which can provide an important source of nectar for pollinators. As they mature, orchard trees can provide a home to range of wildlife.</p> <p>Note that fruit trees planted on allotment sites are required to be of a dwarf-variety.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mulch may need to be added to the base of the tree during mid-late Spring and Autumn for the first few years of the tree's life. - Annual pruning of tree in Winter (November to mid-March) - Rake up and remove excess fallen fruit on ground around tree. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managing traditional orchards... for bumblebees (bumblebeeconservation.org) - How to prune apple trees in winter - Woodland Trust
Wildflower meadow	<p>Wildflower meadows have a variety of native grasses and wildflowers, which provide food for insects, small mammals and birds.</p> <p>Meadows are managed traditionally by being cut in early Spring and late Summer and the cut material removed to keep the nutrient levels low. Lower nutrients enable the flowers to compete with the vigorous grasses.</p> <p>At the Stapleton Allotment pollinator garden, we have enhanced the meadow area by planting the following native wildflower species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oxeye Daisy = <i>great for many pollinators, and particularly favoured by beetles.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cut and collect all arisings in late-Feb to March. - Pull up any creeping thistle, common hogweed and dock (or cut the flower heads off before they set seed). - Cut again in late August or September once most plants have seeded. Leave arisings in place for around a week before removing (to allow seeds to drop). - Arisings can then be added to a compost area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planting for Bugs - Buglife (buglife.org.uk) - 5.-Plants-for-pollinators.pdf (buglife.org.uk) - Sheet-1-Grasslands-for-Pollinators-1.pdf (buglife.org.uk) - Create-a-meadow-poster-FINAL.pdf (plantlife.org.uk)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Common knapweed = <i>a favourite of many butterflies such as common blue, marbled white and meadow brown butterfly.</i> - Bird-foot trefoil = <i>foodplant for the caterpillars of the common blue butterfly, and its flowers a great source of nectar for many insects.</i> - Yarrow = <i>great for many pollinators and loved by hoverflies!</i> - Wild carrot = <i>great for many pollinators, and a favourite of the carrot mining bee!</i> - Common vetch = <i>great for many pollinators.</i> - Red clover = <i>foodplant of the clouded yellow butterfly and great source of nectar for many insects.</i> - Field scabious = <i>great for many pollinators.</i> - Common sorrell = <i>foodplant for the small copper butterfly.</i> - Meadow cranesbill = <i>great for many pollinators.</i> - Yellow rattle = <i>competes with vigorous grasses, increasing the chance for wildflowers to establish.</i> 		
Wildlife Pond	<p>Ponds provide habitat for a range of plant and animal species which rely on water for at least part of their lifecycle.</p> <p>Floating plants can provide rest areas for insects to drink.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove leaf litter and dead plant matter during Autumn and Winter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to build a pond The Wildlife Trusts

	<p>Remember to provide a ramp or sloped edges to allow animals to escape!</p> <p>Flowering wetland plants are an important source of nectar for pollinating insects. At the Stapleton Allotment pollinator garden, we have included the following marginal plants around the pond edge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marsh marigold = <i>Spring-flowering, a useful source of early nectar for insects.</i> - Water mint = <i>very attractive to a variety of insects, including Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Comma butterflies.</i> - Water forget-me-not = <i>great for many pollinators!</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove silt build-up on a 2–3-year cycle and only remove up to 50% at a time. - Remove excess algae and duckweed when required – leave overnight on the pond edge to allow creatures to return to the pond before moving further away. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating-Garden-Ponds-for-Wildlife-1.pdf (freshwaterhabitats.org.uk) - How to Make a Wildlife Pond in Your Garden - The RSPB - Pond restoration and management Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Pond Management Hub - Freshwater Habitats Trust
Log pile	<p>These provide shelter, nesting and overwintering habitat for many pollinators, and the larger structures can provide a home for other wildlife including hedgehogs, amphibians and reptiles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited maintenance required. Add new material when required. - Avoid disturbing during the Winter as this is the most sensitive period for hibernating wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to make a log shelter The Wildlife Trusts - How to make a log pile to provide shelter for garden wildlife Natural History Museum (nhm.ac.uk)
Gravel garden	<p>Gravel gardens are great for drought-tolerant plants and can be a low-maintenance option for a garden or allotment. At the Stapleton Allotment pollinator garden, we have included</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Re-distribute gravel annually as required – cover over any bare spots. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to make a gravel garden for wildlife The Wildlife Trusts

	<p>a range of flowering plants which thrive in these conditions and are an important source of nectar for pollinators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - English Lavender = <i>great for many pollinators.</i> - Kidney vetch = <i>the sole food plant for the larvae of the rare small blue butterfly.</i> - Viper's bugloss = <i>loved by many insects especially bumble bees, painted lady butterflies, burnet moths and red mason bees.</i> - Evening primrose = <i>the flowers open during the evening, so this is a great addition for nocturnal pollinators such as moths.</i> - Lamb's ear = <i>loved by the Wool carder bee which will use the leaves of this plant for their nests.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove any self-seeded plants which are crowding out the space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gravel gardens / RHS Gardening
Bee bank	<p>Bee banks provide great habitat for nesting bees such as mining bees. These bees require warm, bare banks of sandy soil.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear half of the bank back to bare ground by removing self-seeded plants every year in February. Swap sides the following year. - Also clear ground immediately adjacent to the bee bank. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bee-bank-booklet-4.pdf (buglife.org.uk)
Shade-tolerant	<p>At the Stapleton Allotment pollinator garden, we have planted an area of shade-tolerant wildflowers which will</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Areas where only late-Winter to Spring flowering bulbs have been planted can be cut during late 	N/A

<p>wildflower area</p>	<p>provide a source of nectar for pollinators throughout the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Snowdrop = <i>the flowers offer a vital food source for insects that emerge early in the year.</i> - Winter aconite = <i>the flowers offer a vital food source for insects that emerge early in the year.</i> - Crocus = <i>flower from late-Winter to early Spring, providing a much-needed source of nectar and pollen for queen bumblebees emerging from hibernation.</i> - Wild daffodil = <i>great for Spring-flying pollinators.</i> - Wood anemone = <i>important for hoverflies!</i> - Red campion = <i>attractive for many pollinators.</i> - Snake's head fritillary = <i>pollinated by bumblebee queens in Spring.</i> - Primrose = <i>important source of nectar for pollinators like brimstone and small tortoiseshell butterflies.</i> - Grape hyacinth = <i>very attractive for Spring-flying pollinators!</i> - Evening primrose = <i>the flowers open during the evening, so this is a great addition for nocturnal pollinators such as moths.</i> 	<p>Spring/early Summer after the bulbs have died back.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - However, we have planted red campion (which flowers during Spring/Summer), and therefore this area should be cut once in late September. - All arisings should be removed (e.g. added to compost area). 	
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Herb garden	<p>The flowers of many herb plants are an important source of nectar for pollinators, as well as being edible for humans! At the Stapleton Allotment pollinator garden, we have included the following plants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wild marjoram = <i>a great source of nectar for many insects.</i> - Borage = <i>a favourite plant of many bees!</i> - Sage = <i>a great source of nectar for leafcutter bees and long-tongued garden bumblebee.</i> - Rosemary = <i>an early-flowering herb which provides an important food source during Spring.</i> <p>Many herb plants can also be grown alongside food plants with mutual beneficial effects, known as ‘companion planting’. This can encourage pollinating insects whilst also discouraging certain ‘pests’.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trim/prune plants regularly to encourage new growth. - The plants may need watering regularly during the Summer months. - Remove any self-seeded plants which are crowding out the herbs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grow wildlife-friendly herbs The Wildlife Trusts - 10 easy to grow herbs: Friends of the Earth - Companion Planting: Best Plants to Grow Together BBC Gardeners World Magazine
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