Royal Entomological Society

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THE ROYAL ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY GARDEN AT RHS CHELSEA HIGHLIGHTS THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF INSECTS IN OUR CHANGING WORLD

The Royal Entomological Society Garden, designed by Tom Massey and supported by Project Giving Back, highlights the vital role that insects play in our gardens and our lives. The garden is designed to show how remarkable and valuable insects are and allows insect study to take place in the unique outdoor laboratory, inspired by an insect eye, at the heart of the garden. After its showcasing at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2023, it will be relocated to IQL Stratford in East London as a long-term opportunity for learning and research.

Inspired by nature found on brownfield sites, the Royal Entomological Society Garden features a mix of native and non-native planting providing a rich source of food for pollinators and a range of other insects. Some of the plants featured in the garden – such as the humble dandelion, knapweed, vetch and clover – are commonly considered weeds but are long-flowering and can be more resilient to the effects of our increasingly unpredictable climate. The large number of plant varieties increases biodiversity value, including several tree species that are important for supporting insects such as hawthorn, silver birch, Scots pine and hazel.

Tom Massey says: “Insects are key species in our ecosystems, but many are suffering mass global decline. We, as gardeners, have a vital role to play in their recovery and survival through the choices we make, particularly when it comes to hard landscaping and planting. The best thing you can do to support insects and a range of other wildlife in your garden is to choose a wide range of plants with year-round interest to prolong the seasons and introduce a very varied mix of plants to increase biodiversity value.”

In addition to a wide range of plants that support insects, the RES Garden also incorporates different types of insect habitats, which have all been given an innovatively designed twist. Dead wood, essential for many species of beetle among other insects, can be seen in the form of a sectioned sculpture; sliced dead wood has been beautifully arranged within Corten steel framed habitat panels; rammed earth floors, walls and hoggin pathways offer fully permeable surfaces for insects to colonise; brownfield site-inspired piles of rubble and waste building materials have been softened by planting, offering diverse spaces for insects to inhabit; gabion retaining walls are filled with leaves, wood and stones, all adding to the aesthetic of the garden while enriching its value for insects.

The garden’s outdoor laboratory offers an ‘insect eye view’ and a space in which to study. A moveable screen links to microscopes in the lab, giving the opportunity to show enlarged insects at magnified scale, revealing their fascinating morphology and offering opportunities for education. The lab’s 7m wide roof structure designed by Cake Industries is inspired by an iridescent insect eye made up of hundreds of hexagonal panels. Its walls provide habitat panels permeable to insects. During the week of the show the lab will be used for real scientific research, monitoring and studying insects visiting the garden.

Simon Ward, CEO at the Royal Entomological Society, comments: "We are thrilled that Project Giving Back is supporting our insect garden alongside its other incredible gardens for good causes at this year's show. Our ecosystems and the health of our planet rely on insects, yet many gardeners see them as pests and want to kill them. We want to inspire everyone to think again about our relationship with insects and learn to value their vital place in nature. Through its relocation to IQL Stratford after the show, we hope the garden will play a key role in inspiring insect scientists of the future."

After RHS Chelsea, the garden will be rebuilt at IQL Stratford where will form a permanent part of Lendlease' sustainable mixed-use neighbourhood at the gateway to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

For further information about the RES visit www.royentsoc.org/chelsea

ENDS

For media enquiries about the Royal Entomological Society, please contact Jennie Spears or Clare Johnson at Bloom PR & Communications at hello@bloom-pr.co.uk or tel: 07815 041 635.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Royal Entomological Society Garden Team:

Landscape Associates – contractor https://landscapeassociates.co.uk/
Hortus Loci – plant supplier https://hortusloci.co.uk/
Cake Industries – lab construction https://cakeindustries.co.uk/
Water Artisans – water feature https://waterartisans.com/
Additional support from: Surrey Ironcraft, Thread, Grassroof Company, Mule Studio, Ashwells Timber.

About the Royal Entomological Society

The Royal Entomological Society is devoted to the understanding and development of insect science. It is one of the world's leading authorities on insect conservation and control, supporting international collaboration, research and the publication of insect science discoveries and understanding. The RES aims to show every person how remarkable and valuable insects are and wants to enrich the world with insect science. It funds, organises and supports events and activities through its outreach and education programmes. Find out more at www.royentsoc.org

About Tom Massey, Garden Designer:

As a garden designer Tom Massey has become synonymous with environmentally conscious gardens that work in harmony with nature and the people they are designed for. Unafraid to push the boundaries of what a show garden can achieve, Tom has previously designed at RHS Chelsea Flower Show for Lemon Tree Trust (2018) with a garden designed to improve the lives of forcibly displaced people living in refugee camps, and Yeo Valley Organic (2021) with an organic, peat free show garden that won a gold medal and BBC/RHS People's Choice award. Tom regularly appears on BBC's *Your Garden Made Perfect*, he lectures in sustainable garden design at the London College of Garden Design and in April 2023 he released his first book, *The Resilient Garden* (RHS/DK).

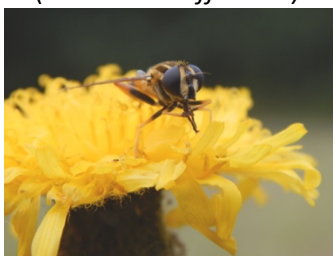
About Project Giving Back

Project Giving Back is a unique grant-making organisation set up with the sole purpose of providing funding for gardens for good causes at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, all of which are relocated after the show so that they continue to benefit the charities and leave a lasting legacy. PGB will fund up to 42 gardens inspired by a range of good causes at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Find out more at givingback.org.uk.

The Royal Entomological Society Garden – Plant List

STAR PLANTS FOR AN INSECT-RICH GARDEN:

Common dandelion
(*Taraxacum officinale)*



Good nectar source for many flying insects such as lacewings, ladybirds and a larval food source for moths

Pygmy borage
(*Borago pygmaea)*

Attracts a variety of pollinators, particularly bees. After a bee has visited a flower, it refills with nectar within two minutes.

Viper's bugloss
(Echium vulgare)

Supports many insects including 20 species of butterfly, bees and hoverflies. Several rare insects only live on this plant.

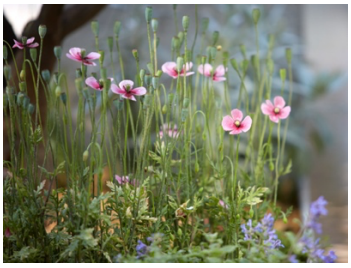
Hawthorn
(Crategus monogyna)

Supports over 300 species of insect, in particular flies, including hoverflies, and small beetles.

Common hazel
(Corylus avellana)

Supports a wide range of insects and its leaves provide food for moth caterpillars.

Beth's poppy
(Papaver dubium subsp. *Lecoqii* 'Albiflorum')



Provides food source for many insects including beetles and pollinating flies.

GENERAL PLANTING:

Annuals

Cerinthe major 'Purpurascens'
Nigella 'Miss Jekyll'
Papaver dubium subsp. *Lecoqii* 'Albiflorum' (Beth's poppy)
Papaver carmeli
Papaver glaucum (tulip poppy)

Biennials

Echium pininana (tree echium)
Echium vulgare (Viper's bugloss)
Verbascum nigrum

Grasses

Hordeum jubatum (foxtail barley)
Melinis nerviglumis 'Savannah' (ruby grass)
Festuca glauca
Festuca ovina

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Perennials

Acanthus mollis (bear's breech)
Anthyllis vulneraria (kidney vetch)
Armeria maritima (sea thrift)
Artemisia absinthium (common wormwood)
Asphodeline lutea (king's spear)
Ballota acetabulosa (Greek horehound)
Berkheya purpurea
Borago pygmaea (pygmy borage)
Conopodium majus (pignut)
Cotula hispida (little gold buttons)
Cynara syriaca (Syrian wild artichoke)
Eremurus × isabellinus 'Cleopatra' (foxtail lily)
Erigeron karvinskianus (Mexican fleabane)
Euphorbia characias 'Wulfenii' (Mediterranean spurge)
Euphorbia myrsinites (myrtle spurge)
Euphorbia rigida (upright myrtle spurge)
Festuca glauca (blue fescue)
Foeniculum vulgare atropurpureum (bronze fennel)
Geranium macrorrhizum (big-root cranesbill)
Geranium maderense 'Guernsey White'
Glaucium flavum (yellow-horned poppy)
Glechoma hederacea (ground ivy)
Hesperaloe parviflora
Iris germanica 'Alcazar'
Leucophyllum frutescens 'Green Cloud'
Lotus corniculatus (bird's foot trefoil)
Nepeta nuda (catmint)
Nepeta racemosa (catmint)
Phlomis fruticose (Jerusalem sage)
Phlomis purpurea
Salvia 'Bee's Bliss'
Salvia 'Shangri La'
Salvia argentea (silver sage)
Salvia chamaedyoides (Germander sage)
Salvia x jamensis 'Blue Armor'
Silybum marianum (milk thistle)
Stachys sylvatica (hedge woundwort)
Teucrium chamaedys (wall germander)
Teucrium fruticans 'Erecta' (tree germander)
Teucrium marum (cat thyme)
Teucrium subspinosum (spiny germander)
Thymus praecox (mother-of-thyme)
Thymus pseudolanuginosus (woolly thyme)
Thymus serpyllum 'Elfin' (creeping thyme)
Thymus vulgaris 'Compacta' (common thyme)
Tulbaghia violacea (society garlic)
Verbena x baileyana purpurea

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Woodland edge

Asplenium scolopendrium (hart's tongue fern)
Deschampsia cespitosa (tufted hairgrass)
Borago officinalis (borage)
Carex divulsa (grey sedge)
Geranium pratense' Phoenix '(meadow cranesbill)
Geum rivale (water avens)
Helleborus foetidus (stinking hellebore)
Lunaria annua 'Corfu Blue'(honesty)
Linaria purpurea (purple toadflax)
Silene dioica (red campion)
Trifolium ochroleucon (sulphur clover)
Digitalis purpurea (foxglove)
Valeriana officinalis (common valerian)
Angelica archangelica (angelica)
Centaurea nigra (common knapweed)
Dipsacus fullonum (teasel)
Taraxacum officinale 'Blühfreude' (common dandelion)

Climbers

Hedera helix (common ivy)
Hedera hibernica (Irish ivy)

Trees and Shrubs

Arbutus x andrachnoides (strawberry tree)
Betula pendula (silver birch)
Crategus monogyna (hawthorn)
Corylus avellana (common hazel)
Corylus colurna (Turkish hazel)
Pinus sylvestris (Scots pine)
Salix elaeagnos angustifolia (rosemary-leaved willow)
Hippophae rhamnoides (sea buckthorn)
Mespilus germanica (medlar)
Ulmus suberosa minor (cork-barked elm)
Sambucus nigra (elder)
Cistus decumbens
Teucrium fruticans 'Ouarzaza' (tree germander)
Myrtus communis subsp. *Tarentina* (myrtle)
Pittosporum tobira

Pondside / Marginal / Aquatic Plants

Butomus umbellatus (flowering rush)
Cirsium rivulare 'Trevor's Blue Wonder' (brook thistle)
Iris sibirica (Siberian flag)
Iris chrysographes (gold-marked iris)
Juncus effusus (soft rush)
Luzula nivea (snowy woodrush)
Lythrum salicaria 'Robin' (purple loostrife)
Nuphar lutea (yellow waterlily)
Osmunda regalis (royal fern)
Thalictrum aquilegiifolium (French meadow rue)
Hottonia palustris (water violet)
Mentha aquatica (water mint)
Ranunculus aquatilis (water crowfoot)