Outdoor laboratory

Inspired by a compound insect eye, the roof is made from recycled steel and hexagonal glazing panels. Inside, a screen links to microscopes, providing a study space.

Hoggin paths

Rammed earth floors, hoggin pathways and recycled material gabion walls support insect lifecycles.

Biodiverse planting mix

The naturalistic planting design encourages beneficial insects, providing year-round food and interest.

Water

A flowing stream and a still pool collect excess rainwater to support a variety of insects.

Dead wood sculpture

A fallen tree is cut into sections and suspended to provide an insect habitat.

A garden for insects and insect science

Inspired by the raw beauty and biodiversity of brownfield sites, the Royal Entomological Society Garden highlights the crucial role that insects play in our gardens and our lives. A place where insects can be observed and studied, the garden encourages us to consider our relationship with insects in our own gardens and green spaces, inspiring the next generation of insect scientists.

Star plants for an insect-rich garden

You can support insects and other wildlife in your garden by choosing a range of plants with year-round interest. Perennials and shrubs that flower at different times of the year can prolong the seasons for insects to feed and thrive.

***Taraxacum officinale* (Common dandelion)**
Provides a good nectar source for many flying insects and a larval food source for moths.

***Borago pygmaea* (Pygmy borage)**
Low growing hardy perennial borage providing a long-lasting source of nectar and pollen.

***Echium vulgare* (Viper's bugloss)**
This native biennial produces elegant spikes of blue flowers from late spring into the autumn.

***Papaver dubium subsp. lecoqii 'Albiflorum'* (Beth's poppy)**
Delicate annual with powder pink flowers providing an important food source for many insects.
Credit: Britt Willoughby Dyer

***Crataegus monogyna* (Common hawthorn)**
This native hedgerow tree supports over 300 species of insect and can be pruned to suit any sized garden.

***Corylus avellana* (Common hazel)**
A rich source of food and habitat for a wide range of insects – suitable for any sized garden and fully hardy.

Download the full plant list.
Scan the code.

Credit: Petar Sabol

The Royal Entomological Society Garden

Enriching the world with insect science

Royal Entomological Society

Credit: Petar Sabol

With thanks to...

The Royal Entomological Society Garden is sponsored by Project Giving Back, a unique charity that supports gardens for good causes at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Find out more at **givingback.org.uk**

The RES Garden Team

Built by Landscape Associates and Cake Industries with the lab roof designed in collaboration with N55, Anne Romme and Anne Bagger. Plants supplied by Hortus Loci. Additional support from: Surrey Ironcraft, Water Artisans, Thread, Grass Roof Company, Mule Studio and Ashwells Timber.

Working in partnership with Lendlease, the Royal Entomological Society Garden will be permanently located at IQL Stratford in London as a publicly accessible teaching garden.

Lendlease

Donate today to support our vital research and education programmes at IQL Stratford and beyond.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera.

Royal Entomological Society

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Visit our website for a chance to win an online consultation with Tom on how to make your garden insect friendly or a signed copy of his new book "Resilient Garden".

WIN an online consultation with Tom!

About the designer

As a garden designer, Tom Massey has become synonymous with environmentally-conscious gardens that work in harmony with nature and the people for whom they are designed.

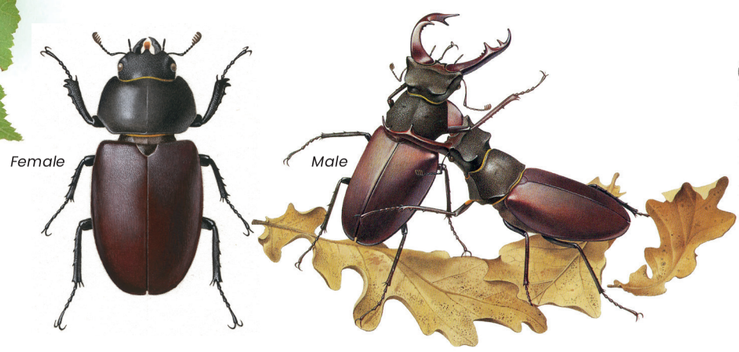
Unafraid to push the boundaries of what a show garden can achieve, Tom has previously designed at RHS Chelsea Flower Show for Lemon Tree Trust (2018) with a garden designed to improve the lives of forcibly displaced people living in refugee camps, and Yeo Valley Organic (2021) with an organic, peat-free show garden that won a gold medal and BBC/RHS People's Choice award.

"This is a garden for insects and people who love them. We hope it will inspire people to reimagine their gardens and green spaces as biodiverse habitats and places to observe the wonders of the miniature world of insects."

tommassey.co.uk
@tommasseyuk

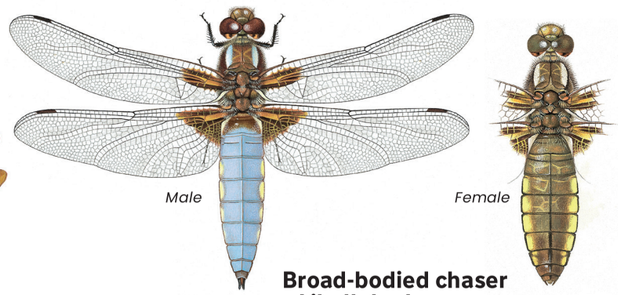
Incredible Insects

There are over 24,000 species of insects in the UK, grouped into orders. How many of these garden animals can you discover?



European stag beetle
Lucanus cervus
Order: Coleoptera (beetles)

Nationally scarce in the UK but can be found in gardens in southeast England that have deadwood available on which females can lay their eggs.

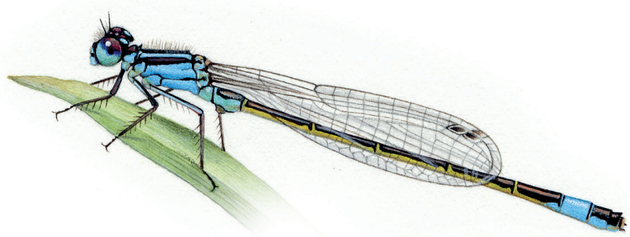


Broad-bodied chaser
Libellula depressa
Order: Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies)

Dragonflies are among the most ancient insects and were some of the first winged animals to evolve about 300 million years ago.

Common wasp
Vespula vulgaris
Order: Hymenoptera (ants, bees and wasps)

Common wasps are apex predators that live in large colonies. They will eat many of the less welcome insects in the garden.



Blue-tailed damselfly
Ischnura elegans
Order: Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies)

More delicate than dragonflies, damselflies usually hold their wings up on top of their back whereas dragonflies hold them stretched out to the sides.

Garden tiger moth
Arctia caja
Order: Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths)

There are over 2,500 species of moths in the UK. They are great indicator species, which means they can tell scientists if a habitat or ecosystem is doing well or needs improvement.

Black garden ant
Lasius niger
Order: Hymenoptera (ants, bees and wasps)

Ants collect nectar and seeds from flowers, as well as small insects and take them back to their colony which typically contains 4,000–10,000 workers.

Black clock beetle
Pterostichus madidus
Order: Coleoptera (beetles)

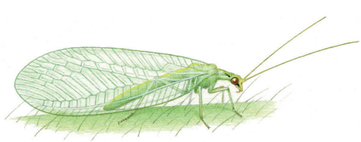
There are over 350 species of ground beetle in the UK and many are good for controlling less welcome garden insects and slugs.

Common earwig
Forficula auricularia
Order: Dermaptera (earwigs)

Unlike most insects, female earwigs make good mothers and watch over their babies, moving their entire nest if threatened.

Marmalade hoverfly
Episyrphus balteatus
Order: Diptera (flies)

Important pollinators that mimic stinging insects like bees and wasps, hoverflies are harmless and cannot sting.



Green lacewing
Chrysoperla carnea
Order: Neuroptera (net-winged insects)

Lacewings and their larvae are garden predators. The adults lay eggs on fine stalks to prevent them being eaten by other insects.

Black bean aphid
Aphis fabae
Order: Hemiptera (true bugs)

Aphids feed on plant sap and give birth to live young. When under attack from predators, aphids will produce "alarm pheromones" to alert other aphids nearby.

Our gardens and green spaces are a vital haven for many beneficial insects that help pollinate our plants, feed wild birds, maintain soil health and process garden waste.

Illustrations kindly provided by Richard Lewington. Illustrations are not to scale.

Royal Entomological Society

Enriching the world with insect science

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royentsoc.org

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Visit our website and discover the incredible world of insects