



B-Lines



Pollinator Facts

8 out of 10 of wild plants in Britain depend on insects for pollination, so a healthy countryside does too!

The bad news is that over 250 of our insect pollinators are in danger of extinction.

Insects pollinate our crops and help provide one in every three mouthfuls of our food. Without them we wouldn't have chocolate or many other vegetables, fruit such as strawberries, apples or grapes, seeds and nuts.

Wild insects pollinate our food for FREE, improving yields for crops such as apples, cherries, pears, plums pumpkins, raspberries and strawberries.

Our wild insect pollinators continue to decline because there is not enough suitable habitat. Britain has lost 97% of its flower-rich grassland since the 1940's. Only a tiny fraction of this has been recreated in farmland. We need to put wild flowers back into the countryside and make sure nectar plants are plentiful in our towns and cities.



Meadow brown butterfly
(*Maniola jurtina*)

Butterflies:

Their long tongues can reach into flowers such as scabious, honesty and lavender.

There are around 60 species in Britain, of which around $\frac{3}{4}$ are in decline.

Beetles:

Beetles pollinated the first flowers at the time of the dinosaurs - more than 140 million years ago!

There are around 100 pollinating species in Britain found on open flowers such as magnolias, cow parsley and some roses.



Thick legged flower beetle
(*Oedemera nobilis*)



Marmalade hoverfly (*Episyrphus balteatus*)

Flies:

Our love of chocolate relies upon tropical flies to pollinate cocoa.

There are roughly 275 species of hoverflies in Britain. Together they'll visit 80% of garden's flowers to feed and pollinate.

Solitary bees:

Solitary bees are active in spring and early summer and are great pollinators in orchards.

There are around 220 species of solitary bees in Britain and they don't sting!



Red mason bee (*Osmia bicornis*)



Five-spot burnet moth
(*Zygaena trifolii*)

Moths:

Moths are the pollinator night shift, visiting flowers such as evening primrose, honeysuckle and summer jasmine.

There are around 2,400 species in Britain, but more than 2/3 of larger moths have declined in the last 40 years.

Bumblebees:

Great pollinators for fruit and veg such as runner beans, tomatoes and summer fruit.

There are 24 species in Britain; 6 are endangered and one species recently became extinct.



Buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*)

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