



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

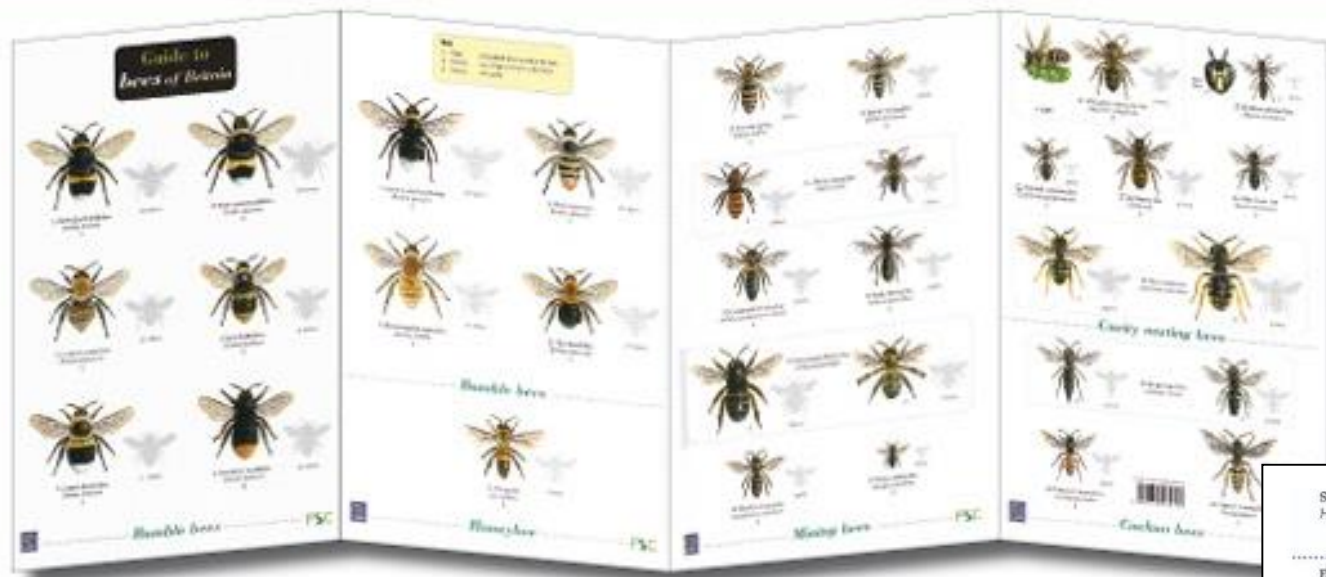
# **The National Pollinator Strategy – taking action to support pollinators**

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Defra

# At least 1500 pollinator species in the UK!



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Source: Field Studies Council

## Bees



*Andrena cineraria* - ashy mining-bee  
(With online recording now available)



*Andrena fulva* - tawny mining-bee  
(With online recording now available)



*Anthidium manicatum* - wool-carder bee



*Anthophora plumipes*  
hairy-footed flower bee  
(With online recording now available)



*Bombus hypnorum* - tree bee  
(With online recording now available)

## Wasps



*Mellinus arvensis* - field digger-wasp



*Philanthus triangulum* - beewolf

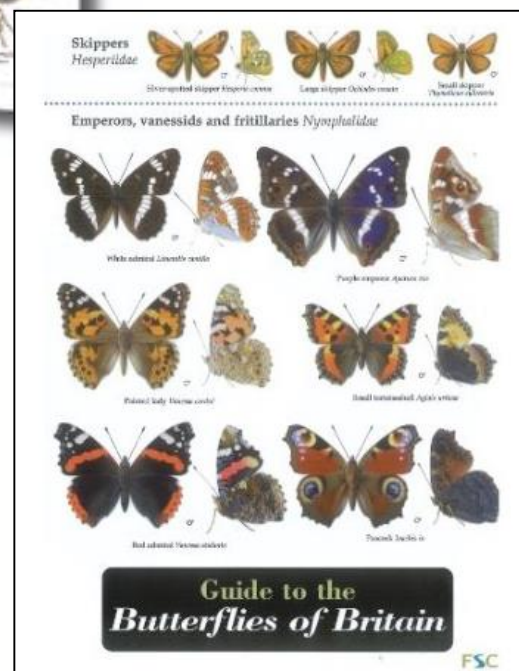


*Vespa crabro* - hornet  
(With online recording now available)



*Dolichovespula media* - median wasp

Source: Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society



**Guide to the  
Butterflies of Britain**

FSC

Source: Field Studies Council

# Why do pollinators matter?

- They're hugely valuable to us, economically and environmentally
- Pollinators play an essential role in contributing to the UK's £100bn food industry
- They help the diversity of our food production - particularly for fruit crops
- Important to the wider biodiversity of our natural environment



# What does the evidence tell us?

- July 2013: Status report 'Bees and other pollinators: their value and health in England'
- Pollinators face many potential pressures:
  - Intensification of land-use and habitat loss
  - Urban growth, agriculture, industry, transport, retail
  - Loss of food sources, shelter and nest sites
  - Pest and disease risks
  - Invasive alien species
  - Use of pesticides
  - Climate change



# In 2014 we launched the Strategy

Published in November 2014, the Strategy

- is a 10 year plan:
- Covers all 1500 species of insect pollinators (wild and managed)
- Is a shared plan between Government, NGOs, business, farming community and the public
- Covers England, and we are working closely with Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland



# NPS policy priorities

- Key aim – to **expand flower-rich habitats across full range of land uses.**
- Examples of policy actions:
  - Promoting the Wild Pollinator and Farm Wildlife package
  - Providing advice for a variety of land managers on our website
  - Developing a quality assurance mark for wildflower seeds
  - Commitments from large land owners to follow Bee's Needs advice
- Another key aim – **tackling pests and disease risks**





# Building partnerships is at the heart of our approach

- Build partnerships to support pollinators
- Improve our understanding
- Refresh our commitment
- Sharing stories and lessons



# Our communications campaign is simple: food and a home for pollinators

- Most of the 23 actions are underpinned by simple actions and detailed advice for land managers to help them expand pollinator habitat
- July 2014: Launched a call to action, and website [www.beesneeds.org.uk](http://www.beesneeds.org.uk)





# Information to support pollinators

- Information sheets on the Bees Needs website: Gardens, Woodland, Transport Corridors
- Publishing Urban Environment soon – on Bees' Needs



# Urban Environment

- A wide variety of habitats form the green infrastructure of urban areas
- What you can do:
  - Provide a range of plants
  - Annual planting
  - Perennial plants
  - Sympathetic management of grasslands



# Planting for pollinators



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- RHS 'Perfect for Pollinators' guide gives helpful advice:
- In **spring** plant peach, pear or blackberries
- In **summer** plant cornflower, snapdragon or hollyhock
- In **autumn** plant ivy, clematis or chrysanthemum
- In **winter** plant musk willow, snowdrops or crocus



**RHS Perfect for Pollinators**  
Garden plants  
[rhs.org.uk/perfectforpollinators](https://rhs.org.uk/perfectforpollinators)

RHS Registered Charity No. 2228791/SC038262

## Get your garden buzzing

- ▶ Plant flowers that are on the RHS Perfect for Pollinators plant lists
- ▶ Grow a range of plants for year-round flowering
- ▶ Avoid plants with double or multi-petalled flowers
- ▶ Never use pesticides on plants in flower
- ▶ Provide nest sites for solitary bees

Subspecies and cultivars of plants listed here are also Perfect for Pollinators. Plants with double or multi-petalled flowers are excluded.

### Winter

Nov – Feb

<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i> Spanish traveller's joy	C
<i>Crocus species</i> crocus (winter-flowering)	B
<i>Eranthis hiemalis</i> winter acornite	B
• <i>Fatsia</i> <i>sp.</i> tree ivy	S
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i> common snowdrop	B
<i>Helleborus species</i> and hybrids hellebore (winter-flowering)	H
<i>Lonicera</i> • <i>purpurea</i> Purpus honeysuckle	S
<i>Mahonia species</i> Oregon grape	S

Photos: RHS/ Carol Sheppard (Bumblebee on Salvia (Leucosia 'Victoria')).



# Bees' Needs: 5 simple actions

*5 simple actions* to support pollinators' essential needs:

- 1 Grow more flowers, shrubs and trees rich in pollen and nectar
- 2 Leave patches of land to grow wild with plants like stinging nettles provide food for caterpillars, and breeding places for butterflies and moths
- 3 Cut grass less often to allow plants to flower
- 4 Avoid disturbing or destroying nesting or hibernating insects
- 5 Think carefully about whether to use pesticides

# Local authority perspective - Bristol



Defra provided funding for the 'Get Bristol Buzzing' initiative.

Aims:

- Habitat creation for wildlife
- Establish the Greater Bristol Pollinator Network
- Develop a Bristol Pollinator Strategy
- Distribute pollinator-friendly seed mixes



# Local authority perspective - Bristol



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- Floral meadows in the public eye – ‘Meadow Bristol
- **Key considerations**
  - Site selection
  - Seed bed preparation and seeding
  - Germination and growth
  - Maintenance
  - Treatment after flowering





# Thank you!

[www.beesneeds.org.uk](http://www.beesneeds.org.uk)

