



Magazine Issue no.1
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Hello Fellow Allotmenters,

No time to rest. There is just enough daylight to clear and tidy up the allotment of any old crops in preparation for next year. Don't leave the remains of summer crops to rot and harbour overwintering pests and diseases. Wait for a clear, crisp, sunny day and go for it. You might feel worn out, but you'll be a lot better at the end of the exercise!

The fifth of November marks a historic day in the UK. On this day in 1605, a group of Roman Catholics plotted to blow up the English Parliament while King James I was inside. Fortunately, the plot was foiled. Every year festivities are held across the country to celebrate the group's failure, which includes setting off countless fireworks, lighting bonfires, and even setting alight effigies of Guy Fawkes, one of the conspirators.

November has just one birthstone, the radiant topaz. The topaz is symbolic of many things, but most of all, it is a symbol of strength and honour. The ancient Greeks also believed that the stone had the ability to turn oneself invisible.

November has two birth flowers, the ever-stylish chrysanthemum and the peony, the epitome of class.

Those born in November can be born under one of two very different star signs. If you're born before November 23rd, then you have the sign of Scorpio. Those born on November 23rd or later have the sign of Sagittarius. Scorpions are said to value trust and honesty above other things, as well as being quite intense yet imaginative people. Those born under the sign of Sagittarius are quite different, being energetic and idealistic while also generous and open-minded.

Thanks for reading,
Gareth Richards (Treasurer)
Yeovil Allotments Association

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Allotment Tasks for November

November marks the transition into the colder months, and for allotment holders, it's a critical time to prepare the garden for winter while setting the stage for a fruitful spring. With shorter days and dropping temperatures, November tasks focus on maintenance, protection, and forward planning. Here's your comprehensive checklist for November allotment care, complete with practical advice to keep your plot thriving.

Clear and Tidy the Allotment

Remove Dead Plants and Debris

Begin by clearing away any dead or dying plants. These can harbor **pests** or diseases that might overwinter and cause problems next season. Add healthy plant material to the **compost** bin, but burn or dispose of diseased material to prevent contamination.

Tidy Pathways and Borders

Trim back overgrown edges, sweep pathways, and remove weeds from borders. This not only keeps the allotment looking neat but also reduces hiding spots for slugs, snails, and other **pests**.

Leave Some Areas Wild

While tidying is essential, consider leaving a few areas undisturbed. These can provide shelter for beneficial insects and small animals, such as hedgehogs, over winter.

Prepare the Soil

Remove Weeds

Weeds can quickly take over during the winter months. Use a hoe or hand fork to remove them now, preventing seeds from spreading.

Add Organic Matter

November is an excellent time to improve soil health by incorporating well-rotted manure or homemade [compost](#).

Spread a thick layer over the surface to act as a mulch, protecting the soil from heavy winter rain and erosion.

Test and Adjust Soil pH

If you suspect your soil is too acidic, November is a good time to add lime, which improves pH balance and prepares the ground for spring planting. Soil test kits are affordable and easy to use for this purpose.

Plant and Sow

Garlic and Onions

November is ideal for planting garlic and overwintering onion sets. Choose a sunny, well-drained spot and plant cloves and sets so that their tips are just below the surface.

Broad Beans

Sow hardy varieties of broad beans, such as 'Aquadulce Claudia,' directly into the ground. These beans thrive in cold conditions and will establish roots before the deep winter frost.

Fruit Bushes

Now is the time to plant bare-root **fruit** bushes like raspberries, blackberries, and gooseberries. Ensure the ground is well-prepared and free from weeds before planting.

Protect Crops

Frost Protection

Use fleece, cloches, or cold frames to protect vulnerable crops from frost. Brassicas, like cabbages and Brussels sprouts, will benefit from netting to protect them from pigeons as well.

Mulch Perennials

Apply mulch around the base of perennials to insulate their roots and prevent frost damage. Straw, wood chips, or even shredded leaves work well.

Check for Pests

Slugs and snails are still active in mild weather. Use slug traps, pellets (sparingly and safely), or hand-pick them during damp evenings. Regularly inspect overwintering crops for damage.

Maintain Compost Bins

Turn the Compost

Give your **compost** bin a good turn to aerate the material, which helps the decomposition process. If the pile is too wet, add dry materials like shredded cardboard or straw to balance moisture levels.

Add Autumn Leaves

November is the perfect time to add fallen leaves to your compost bin. Alternatively, store them separately in a leaf mold bin or bags to create nutrient-rich mulch for next year.

Harvest Remaining Crops

Seasonal Vegetables

Continue to harvest late-season crops like leeks, parsnips, and winter squash. These can often be stored for several weeks if kept in a cool, dry place.

Cut and Store Herbs

Before hard frost sets in, cut **herbs** like parsley, thyme, and rosemary for drying or freezing. This ensures a steady supply of flavor for winter cooking.

Plan for Next Year

Draw Up a Crop Rotation Plan

If you practice crop rotation, now is a great time to map out next year's planting scheme. Rotating crops helps prevent soil depletion and reduces the risk of **pests** and diseases.

Order Seeds and Supplies

Get ahead by ordering seeds, fertilizers, and other supplies now. Many seed companies offer discounts in the off-season, and early planning ensures you're ready when spring arrives.

Care for Tools and Equipment

Clean and Sharpen Tools

Take the time to clean and sharpen your gardening tools. This extends their lifespan and ensures they're in peak condition for spring planting.

Store Tools Safely

Prevent rust by storing tools in a dry, secure location. Applying a thin layer of oil to metal parts can also protect them from moisture.

Service Machinery

If you use a lawnmower or rotavator, November is a good time to have it serviced. Empty fuel tanks and check moving parts for wear and tear.

Support Wildlife

Install Feeders and Nesting Boxes

Winter is a challenging time for wildlife, so consider putting up bird feeders and nesting boxes. Fill feeders with high-energy seeds, suet, and nuts to help birds through the colder months.

Create Habitats

Pile up logs or stones to create shelter for frogs, toads, and insects. These small habitats can make a big difference to local biodiversity.

Provide Water

Ensure a water source is available, such as a shallow dish or a birdbath. Check regularly to remove ice on frosty mornings.

Embrace the Slower Season

November is a quieter month on the allotment, offering a chance to reflect and prepare. Spend time observing your plot, noting what worked well this year and what you'd like to change. The winter months provide a valuable opportunity to recharge and dream of the growing season to come.

By tackling these tasks in November, you'll not only keep your allotment in excellent condition through the winter but also lay the foundation for a thriving and productive growing season ahead. Each action, whether it's clearing debris, planting overwintering crops, or protecting your soil, plays a vital role in

Amphibians

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• OLM

• FROG

• NECTURUS

• TOAD

• SIREN

• CAECILIAN

• AXOLOTL

• NEWT

• SALAMANDER



BASKETBALL

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HOOP
COURT
BALL
SHOOT

SCORE
REBOUND
LAYUP
DUNK

DRIBBLE
PASS
FOUL
TEAM



NBA TEAMS

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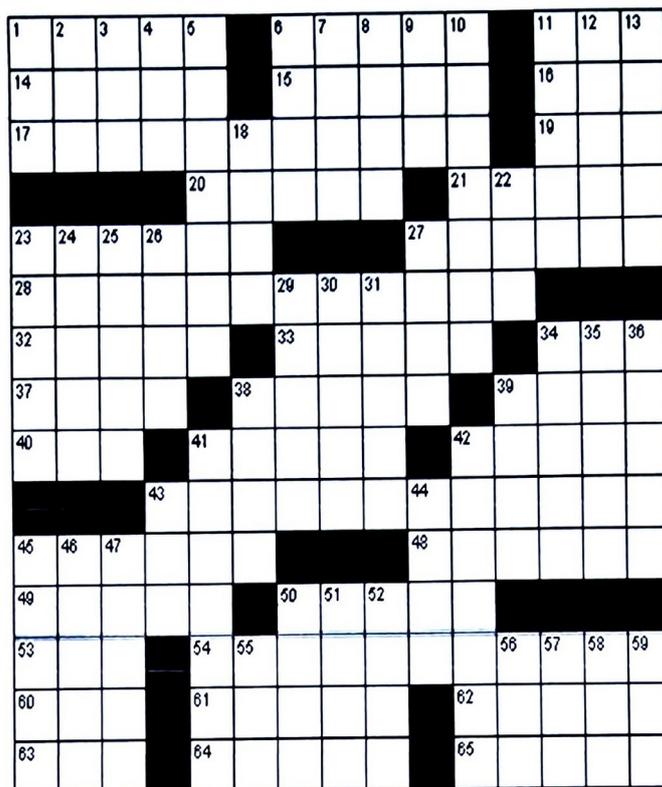
LAKERS
KNICKS
NETS
HAWKS

ROCKETS
WARRIORS
MAGIC
BULLS

SUNS
SPURS
CLIPPERS
MAVERICKS



Crossword no.188



ACROSS

1. Vapors
6. Assistants
11. Autonomic Nervous System
14. Anagram of "Orate"
15. French pancake
16. Standard Operating Procedure
17. Delusions of grandeur
19. A prominent rock
20. Kilns
21. A long metal nail
23. Take on titles or offices
27. Gruff
28. Inhabitants of small Pacific islands
32. Sore
33. Classes by kinds
34. Mouth
37. Singer _____ Fitzgerald
38. Collection of maps
39. Traditional Indian music
40. Whiskey
41. Moan
42. An archaic gold coin
43. Treat differently based on sex or race
45. Guarantee
48. Response

- a coat collar
50. Monetary unit in Ecuador
53. 3 in Roman numerals
54. Defiant or unmanageable
60. Arranger (abbrev.)
61. Makes secure against leakage
62. Threesomes
63. 24 hour period
64. Steed
65. Give expression to emotion

DOWN

1. Precious stone
2. Metric unit of area
3. Screen Actors Guild
4. 7th letter of the Greek alphabet
5. A wise king of Israel
6. Highest level or degree attainable
7. Anagram of "Rain"
8. Hideouts
9. Prefix indicating "Upon"
10. Lends flavor to
11. On the move
12. Sheltered, secluded places
13. A brief indulgence
18. Roasting appliance
22. Dance step
23. A deep yellow color
24. Goofy
25. Weighing machine
26. Murre
27. Caps or derbies, for example
29. Anagram of "Cotes"
30. Pertaining to the sun
31. Pertaining to modern day Persia
34. A brilliant colored parrot
35. Chalcedony
36. Found in rivers and oceans
38. Anagram of "Ears"
39. Hurries on foot

- young girl
42. An alcove for dining
43. Deserved
44. A brandy made from the residue of grapes
45. Greek poem of the sieg of Troy
46. Nigerian monetary unit
47. Like a steeple
50. Anagram of "Rats"
51. Website addresses
52. A portable container
55. Prefix indicating recent or new
56. A superior limb
57. Biography (abbrev.)
58. A parcel of land
59. East southeast

Link to Brimsmore Garden Centre

We have a Gold Club discount deal with Brimsmore Garden Centre.

They offer all member's 25% discount on Spring bulbs for sale in October and then again a second deal for anything at the Centre that is not on special offer which can be used as many times as you want during January and February.

I have used it for compost in the past and the savings are quite good on your pocket. You can have the items delivered which is free within the Yeovil area or you can pick your items up at the Garden Centre.

Brimsmore Garden Centre website address :

<https://store.thegardensgroup.co.uk>

Email : brimsmore@thegardensgroup.co.uk

Telephone no. : 01935 411000

Address : Brimsmore Gardens
Tintinhull Road
Yeovil
Somerset
BA21 3NU

Where we meet

Johnson Park, Coronation Avenue, Yeovil. BA21 3DX

as well as

Brimsmore Gardens, Tintinhull Road, Yeovil, Somerset

BA21 3NU

We generally meet twice a month. The last Thursday of the month is reserved for a committee meeting. We discuss all things related to the Association and deal with any matters arising.

We meet at 8pm on these nights in the lounge bar at Johnson Park Sports and Social Club. They have a car park

Minutes are recorded by our Secretary. The Chairman opens the meeting and directs us through the running order and as well as site supervisor's input there is a monthly Treasurer's report.

The other meeting night is a more social event and this takes place on the Thursday of the month. We can invite a speaker, you can buy a drink at the bar and there is a raffle normally run by Phillip.

Three times a year on the 1st Wednesday of the month we meet at Brimsmore Garden Centre for our social. We meet in the Apple Tree restaurant at 6.30pm. Some tea and biscuits are available for free. We try to have a guest speaker at these events or a talk on a garden topic and a raffle run by Phillip's wife.

These three events replace our said Thursday social meetings at Johnson Park.

Your annual membership card gives you the time and dates of meetings for the year ahead. Our membership night for renewals is every March and again a discount night is offered for any garden centre items which are not on special offer.

King Seeds - Top Tips for Seed Sowing

- Use seed sowing compost, not multi-purpose. Multi-purpose compost often contains too much feed which can damage or kill young seedlings before they grow.
- Water with fresh tap water. Avoid using saved rainwater for seeds and young seedlings, as pathogens can build up in water butts and containers which can affect germination. Rainwater is fine to use on established plants.
- Maintain the correct temperature. Ensure the seeds are kept at their ideal germination temperature.
- Monitor the water levels. Some composts may appear dry on the surface but are moist beneath. Certain seeds such as peas and beans tend to rot off if they are overwatered, yet if they are too dry, their seed coats may not break down properly, preventing germination.
- Water the drill directly when sowing outside during a dry spell. It is important when sowing seeds direct into the allotment soil when the soil is dry, to always water the seed drill first before sowing. Draw out the seed drill, then give a thorough watering so the base of the drill is really wet, then leave to drain for a few minutes before sowing the seed onto the wet soil. Once sown, the seed is then covered over with the dry soil, which traps the moisture below where the seeds need it to germinate. This is a far better method than constantly watering overhead with a rose on a can, which will evaporate with the sun or drying winds and put a hard cap over the soil, making it much harder for the seedlings to push through.

Solution

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British Bees: How to Protect Their Declining Population



Why Should We Protect Bees?

Bees are a part of our landscapes and gardens, we know what they are and we know they make honey, but our bees are in danger of disappearing due to habitat destruction, chemicals and disease.

Without bees the human race will struggle to harvest enough food. That sounds dramatic but our pollinators are responsible for the fruiting of our harvest. In short, we have to change bee fortunes not only for their sake but for our own. Bee numbers are a good indication of environmental health.

Like our native **hedgehogs** and **butterflies, they are in decline** and this points to environmental problems – but there are ways you can help reverse their fortunes.

The majority of people know bees make honey and they sting, but there is so much more to this fascinating creature – **did you know they have five eyes?** Two standard ones and then three on top of their head, and were you aware there are hundreds of different types in the UK alone?

Here's the ultimate guide to bees and how we can help them survive.

READ NEXT: The Benefits of Bees That Ensure Our Survival **What Bees Live in the UK?**

It's less common now than 50 years ago, but most of us are acquainted with the buzzing bee busily nestling inside our flowers. There are hundreds of **different types**, but for ease its best to classify them as solitary and social bees.

Social bees such as honeybees live in hives and nests – up to 50,000 of them can live together in a hierarchy of command. The bumblebee is also a social type, but chooses a smaller group of friends – around 50-150. Social bees are ruled by a queen. This monarch is responsible for all egg laying, the rest collect food, keep the hives clean and fertilise the queen.

Social bee types include:

Bumblebees



There are a number of bumblebees including the red-tailed, white-tailed, tree, small garden and early bumble bees. They are the loud, fluffy bees that look utterly strokeable, and make a thud against your windowpanes. **Bumblebees have the longest tongue of all UK bees reaching just over 2 cm at full**

stretch. The old English name for a Bumblebee is a Dumbledore just in case you ever wondered where JK Rowling got the name.

Honeybees



Honeybees are slimmer, and they have a striped golden body, unfortunately there are few wild colonies left in the UK, **but bee-keepers tend honeybees** in artificial hives. They are more

common than bumblebees, often feeding on flowers such as lavender, fruit blossom and oilseed rape.

Common Carder Bees



Carders are all brown bees ranging from light orange to a yellowy brown. They are found in most gardens and enjoy taking nectar from weeds such as dandelions and dead nettles.

Solitary bees live alone in tunnels or burrows. This is the type you might find in your **bee hotel**. They don't make honey or wax, and feed their larvae with a mix of pollen and nectar.

*Solitary bee types include:*Mason Bees



Mason bees live in the brickwork of houses, wood, hard dead flower stalks, and walls. They have quite black faces, with a deep ginger body, and a squarer head than other bees. They collect building material such as mud to construct a small home in masonry study gaps.

Mining Bees



Mining bees are the bees that leave little piles of earth on your lawn – these miniature volcanoes are the work of mining bees that nest in the ground. There are many different species, such as the ashy mining bee, and they range from dark fluffy orange

to a pale fluffy yellow. Mining bees live in all environments ranging from quarries to gardens often taking advantage of beetle tunnels.

Leafcutter Bees



Leafcutter bees are responsible for removing semi-circular sections of plant foliage. There are seven different types in the UK. They use cut leaves to build a nesting cell for a single larvae.

They nest in beetle holes and need around 40 pieces of leaf to make their nursery.

READ NEXT: [Incredible Facts About Bees](#)

Where Do Bees Live?



Depending on the species they live in hives, in the earth, in tree trunks and in the bricks of your house. If you spot a large, frail-looking papery nest, it's likely to be a wasp nest – do not touch and keep your children and pets away.

If you are lucky a solitary bee may take up residence in your bee hotel. See here for guidance on **[how to build your own bee and bug hotel!](#)**

What Do Bees Eat?

Bees get all they need from flowers. Nectar provides carbohydrates and pollen provides protein. Bees don't actually eat honey in summer, instead they save it for their larvae. Remaining honey is sealed off with wax and left to ferment for use over winter when flowers are dormant and nectar is in short supply.

Do Bees Have Any Predators?

Bees are prey to a number of predators. Birds will take bees on the wing or as they bustle inside a flower. Spiders will catch bees in a web and the crab spider, a prolific hunter, is a master of stealth, changing colour to match the flower environment before pouncing on an unsuspecting bee.

Cats and dogs kill bees, often with consequential vet trips, and many bees collide with cars. We kill bees too with garden pesticides, a lack of flowers and simply squashing them because we are afraid.

The Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*) is a particularly successful predator of honey bees. They will wait outside hives to kill and collect bees as they return. It's not native to the UK but has been accidentally introduced to France and is working its way across Europe. The Asian Hornet can wipe out entire colonies of honeybees.

Many people tend to panic when they hear a buzz, but it's easy to tell the difference between a bee and a wasp.

The main difference is that a bee will not bother trying to eat your food. It needs nectar, not your apple or ice-cream, but wasps are attracted to sweet foods. Bees also tend to have fluffier, wider bodies with hairy legs whereas wasps are slim and have thin waists.

There are two types of wasp in the UK – the common wasp and the German wasp. They both have long, black and yellow bodies that measure 12-15mm. Bees are usually more orange in colour. Because bees have robust, hairy bodies with flat rear legs, and wasps are slender some folk describe wasps as fast sports cars and a bee is the comfortable Volvo.

And the nests?

It's rare if not impossible to locate a wild bee nest now, but it would have wax cells and bee larvae stacked in rows. A wasp nest is papery, large and rounded. They nest in trees, lofts, and dark places. Both types of nest will hum with activity and should not be poked or messed about with.

There's another stripy insect to look out for too – if you spot what looks like a wingless wasp sipping nectar- that's a pollinating hoverfly.

Hoverflies are simple to identify because they do just that, they hover near a plant flapping their wings so fast you can't see or hear them. They have no sting and are totally harmless.

READ NEXT: [The UK's Best Garden Wildlife Cameras](#)

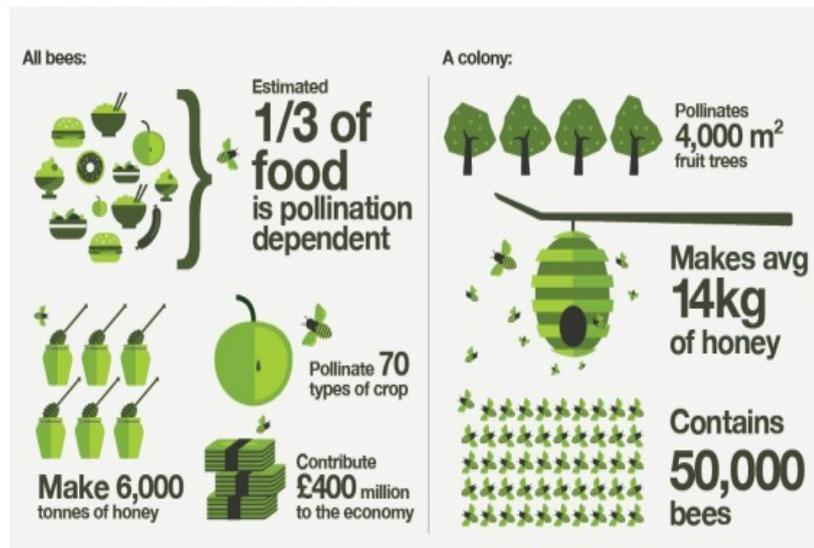
Do Bees Hibernate?

Some do. Solitary bees tend to hibernate in their burrow or nest, which is another reason to keep those plant stalks up till spring – there may be a hibernating solitary bee fast asleep inside.

Honey bees congregate together for warmth in the hive taking turns to go on the outside so all are heated up. They will eat summer-stored honey supplies at this point.

Bumblebees tend to die off as the colder weather approaches, which is why we see them dead more often than others. The queen bumblebee will survive nestled away in soil. If you disturb a large bumbler digging your garden in winter just bow and leave it alone – it may well be a queen that's needed to start a new colony in spring.

How Bees Help the Garden



Bees are an essential part of the food chain pollinating a third of our food supply. 70 plants in the UK need bee pollination, and it is estimated bees are worth £400 million per year to the food production industry. Because they pollinate our plants we are in trouble without them.

Take your apple trees for example. You may have two pollinating partners, meaning two different types of apple tree that need cross pollination to produce apples. It's the bees (and other pollinators like butterflies and hoverflies) that carry out your pollination.

When they drink nectar from a flower the pollen sticks to bee feet and their hairy, fluffy bodies. Look close up at a bee drinking, it won't hurt you, and you'll see the pollen stuck to its body. Pollen will also float away as they move around on the bloom.

How Do Bees Make Honey and Beeswax?



Honey bees are the only bees that make wax and honey.

Honeybee tongues are long enough to reach inside a flower and sip out nectar. **Extracted nectar is kept in a 'honey stomach'** before they fly back to the nest to deliver their load. Other bees in the hive take the nectar mouth to mouth and enzymes break down sugar to make it less runny. It's then put in those amazing hexagonal cells where bees fan it with their wings so it cools and solidifies.

Honeycombs are works of art made by female worker bees that only live for approximately six weeks. From ten days old bees are able to make from wax which emerges from wax glands beneath their abdomens.

Nectar stored in the honey stomach mixes with enzymes to produce flakes of wax, which they chew off to make mouldable, and add to the honeycomb. Honeycombs are made to house their young – it's a crèche, food storage area and the centre of the honeybee world.

What is The Queen Bee?



Social bees do not believe in democracy, instead they are ruled by a queen bee.

There is only one queen in a hive – the other bees are drones and workers. The queen is responsible for laying eggs which turn into more workers, drones, and of course, the next queen. Worker bees are always sterile females – they clean the queen and feed her so she can keep laying eggs. Drones are male bees that fertilise the queen.

The queen eats honey and royal jelly all year round to keep up the protein levels required to lay 2000 eggs a day. The queen bee is bigger, shiner and smoother than other bees and fairly easy to spot in the hive. **She can live 5-7 years**, but become less productive as she ages.

Without a queen the hive cannot work properly, so if she dies worker bees will immediately begin feeding female larvae large amounts of royal jelly so she develops into their new queen. If you are wondering what royal jelly is – it's a secretion produced from the head of worker bees. All larvae eat some royal jelly, the drones and workers get about three days in the developing larval stages, but the new queen larvae feast on royal jelly until they are fully developed.

4 Things You Can Do to Help Bees

Bees are dying out and the main problem is how our environment is changing.

There are less wildflowers than ever before due to housing development and changes in farming practice, pesticides are a real problem and bee disease too.

Here are 4 easy ways you can help the bees out.

1. Grow Some Flowers

Pollen rich flowers are essential to bees. Grow open-headed flowers from early spring to late autumn because double flowers are too tight and difficult for bees to get inside. The best plants for our bees are native to the UK.

Some good choices are foxglove, comfrey, bluebell, knapweed, **hellebore, witch**

hazel, honeysuckle, buddleia, sedum, lavender, fruit trees such as apple and pear, poppies, and hebe. Wildflowers are important too, in fact the rarer types of bee prefer wildflowers. Don't forget vegetables. Bees will take nectar from broad bean and runner beans – any flowering veggie is attractive to them. If you want to encourage **deeply purring bumblebees** choose deep flowers like foxgloves because only bumble bees have tongues long enough to reach inside them.

The RHS have a Perfect for Pollinator label which is worth looking out for, and they are conducting tests to see which flowers our pollinators prefer.

2. Don't Use Pesticides

Chemicals are a real problem for wildlife of all types. Chemical sprays used to kill aphids and greenfly also kill bees. If you must use them, do it at dusk when the bees have retired for the

night. **A solution of citrus peel and water is often successful on aphids** and if you have lady birds these are voracious killers. The chemical neonicotinoids (thiacloprid and acetamiprid) known as neonics are available at most garden centres and are thought to cause bees real problems.

On a wider scale chemicals used in farming practices cause widespread bee loss. There are studies and arguments over whether farming use of neonics are responsible for our bee loss.

3. Retain Weeds

Bees love **weeds**! Dandelions in particular are adored by bumblebees and honeybees like clover flowers. Leave some for the bees by keeping a wild patch in your garden.

4. Provide a Water Source

Not many of us think about bees needing a drink, but they do get thirsty.

Bees drown in deep, cold water but a great way to help them is by putting out a terracotta saucer filled with pebbles and water. Pebbles give bees and butterflies something to sit on and drink in safety. Bee baths need filling regularly as hot sun can dry them out within a day.

you choose needs to be set up correctly or you'll have a vacancy sign forever.

Put your bee house in a south-facing position that isn't in direct sunlight. It will need a roof so rain doesn't get in, and be fixed against a fence. Bee houses on a chain turn into wind tunnels, and no-one appreciates a draft on their back, not least bees.

You can leave long stalks, dry flower borders and dead wood around for other types of bee.

Alongside growing more flowers you can feed bees a sugar solution. Mix a half and half mixture of water with granulated sugar and pop it in your bee bath or in a saucer. Bees will alight for an energy filled drink.

When To Rescue A Bee

Don't be scared (!), **bees are not aggressive creatures**, they do sting when hurt, but this leads to their death so it's a last resort. A bee will walk over your hands and arms without stinging you, but whacking it, screaming and infecting children with panic does no-one any favours.

If you don't want the bee on you (really you should be honoured) put your body part against flowers or greenery and it will walk away. **And that buzz that so terrifies people? It's just their wings vibrating in the wind.** When scared bees flap them more it's to try and scare away predators.

If you do get stung put an ice pack over the area and it'll go off. Interestingly, beekeepers rarely get arthritis and studies are revealing bee venom may be an effective treatment against rheumatism and forms of arthritis.

A bee in water is in desperate trouble. If there are no sides to climb out, like a paddling pool bird bath or steep-sided pond, they will struggle, freeze and drown. It's a sad sight to see a fluffy bumbler dead in cold water. There is no excuse – help them out and put them in a sunny position away from predators to warm up. With a teaspoon of sugar water they should be fine after ten minutes of peace.

Bees often cling to your **washing line** on sunny days with chilly evenings or if there's a cold breeze. Check your washing as you take it down for bees, ladybirds, butterflies and moths who love the warm safety of a duvet cover or even your socks!

Put them somewhere sheltered and give them that teaspoon of sugary water we've already discussed.

A Sting in the Tail

Bees are nothing to be afraid of – this once common insect is a joy in the garden, and they provide the UK with food.

It's simple to underestimate what bees freely provide for us, and we ought to give something back in return. When that

something is native flowering plants and throwing out chemical sprays we can't complain.

At the very least our children need to know bees are not harmful, if you don't want to be near them, at least leave them alone and pass on your knowledge, because **without bees scientists predict our food levels will rapidly decrease, putting our food supply in danger.**

Research is trying to find alternative methods of pollination, but the simple way is to help the pollinators we already have before their numbers fall so low it's impossible to bring them back.

Save the Bee, Save the Planet is not a catchy quote – it's a fact that we need to act on, and fast.

How to Contact the Editor

If you have comments or you know I have given wrong advice then please contact me by email at gre1ath@gmail.com

If you have something to contribute or have a say on allotment life, then please use my email to send your contributions.

I am going to process the magazine issue once a month, so there is plenty of time for your comments, in future monthly issues.

I would like to add that most of the articles are taken off the web and some well known gardening and allotments magazines have been read in the making of our magazine.

Happy Allotmenting and best wishes,

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