

# Buzzing ideas



## Bee boxes & bug hotels

Bee boxes and bug hotels can provide somewhere for insects to nest in summer or spend the winter in. They are easy to make and can help to ensure that the insects that have found your wildlife area thrive.

The simplest bee box can be constructed by drilling holes into a piece of untreated wood and attaching a roof, to divert rain away from the holes. Bees will create nests within the holes.

Bug hotels can be constructed from bits of drainpipe or old plastic bottles. Cut off the bottom of the bottle and fill with long pieces of bamboo cane. They will need to be jammed in so that they do not fall out and left in a sunny spot.



## Formal planting & raised beds

Flower beds with the right choice of plants can be attractive to both people and the wildlife that you're trying to help. Whether in raised beds or at ground level, creative designs can be made using a mix of colours, flower shapes and plant height. See the Drought Friendly Planting sheet for more information and why not ask your staff what their favourite flowers are?

## Flowering shrubs & hedgerows

Native shrubs such as hawthorn and blackthorn provide an important source of nectar and pollen in the early spring. They can also create sheltered sunny areas for bugs in summer and secluded places for them to spend the winter, while making great use of small spaces. Consider enhancing boundaries with native shrubs- it will improve the appearance as well as helping bugs.





# Get Britain Buzzing...

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### Pots, containers and window boxes

Why not create a cottage garden feel by filling pots, containers or hanging baskets with wildflowers or pollinator-friendly garden plants? If you are short on space, consider window boxes, as even small patches of flowers are of value as they all add up! Use a combination of perennials for year on year colour with little effort, and annuals for more instant and dramatic colour.



### Orchards

Apple, plum, pear, cherry and other orchard trees provide valuable nectar and pollen in the spring as well as looking stunning when in blossom. Plus there is the added benefit of your staff having a fruit crop later in the year – what better way is there to spend a lunch break than apple picking? Why not take it in turn to bake treats for the rest of your team using the crop?



### Habitat piles

Logs and material from general garden management can be great habitats for bugs in their own right! Piling up logs in a damp area under a hedge or shrub will provide nooks and crannies for a range of species throughout the year. Piled up material can be extremely useful for bugs to shelter during the winter.



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