

Make the most of your Community Meadow



Bee boxes & bug hotels

Just like us, insects need somewhere to live. Bee boxes and bug hotels can provide somewhere for insects to spend the winter in. They are easy to make and can help to ensure that the insects that have found your meadow 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 fizzy drinks 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. Visit the Buglife website for full instructions on how to make a bee hotel and bug hotel.



Formal planting

Artistic designs can be created in your meadow using colour specific planting, or the heights and shapes of flowers, blending together. This was demonstrated successfully at the London Olympic Games in 2012.

Flowering shrubs & hedgerows

Native shrubs and hedgerows can provide shelter for pollinating insects and somewhere for them to spend the winter. Native shrubs such as hawthorn and blackthorn also provide an important source of nectar and pollen in the early spring. If you do not have an area of land available for a meadow, consider enhancing boundaries with native hedge planting or garden areas with shrubs that provide nectar and pollen.



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Orchards

Apple, plum, pear, cherry and other orchard trees can provide a useful source of nectar and pollen in the spring and added benefits to the community via a fruit crop later in the year!

Meadow activities

Once you have completed the hard work of creating your meadow, it is important to maintain community interest in the project. Organise activities which will bring your community together to enjoy and learn about your meadow.

Bug hunt!

Consider running a bug hunt. Don't worry if you don't know their names. Make a count of the number of different bugs you find. Over time you can develop your skills to learn their names.

Send us your photos!

Take photos of your meadow and the bugs you find living there. Send your photos to Buglife at info@buglife.org.uk

Meadow art and poetry!

Take a sketch book with you and to draw some pictures of the flowers and wildlife you see whilst you are in your meadow.

Or how about some meadow-inspired poetry?

Picnic!

Invite friends, family, or the whole community to share a picnic and spend time together enjoying your new Community Meadow.



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