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Garden flowers for bumblebees

Some suggested garden flowers for bumblebees include:

SPRING

White Deadnettle (*Lamium album*)*
Berberis
Bulbs: English bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)*,
Crocus, Grape Hyacinths (*Muscari*)
Lungwort (*Pulmonaria* species)
Snowberry
Mahonia
Snakeshead (*Fritillaria meleagris*)*
Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)
Cotoneaster (e.g. *horizontalis*)
Ceanothus
Winter Honeysuckle (*Lonicera x purpusii*)
Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*)
Redcurrants, Blackcurrants, Gooseberries*
Pussy willow (*Salix*)*
Thymes (*Thymus*)
Perennial Cornflower (*Centaurea montana*)
Winter Heather (*Erica carnea*)
Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*)*
Rhododendron
Pears, cherries or plums

* Plants marked with an asterisk are native British flowers.

SUMMER

Brassicas (cabbage etc) left to flower
Pea (everlasting, sweet) and Beans (runner and broad)
Foxgloves (*Digitalis purpurea** and other species)
Catmint (*Nepeta*: many kinds)
Hyssop (*Agastache*)
Woundworts and Betony (*Stachys* species)*
Knapweeds (*Centaurea scabiosa*, *C. nigra*)*
Lupins (herbaceous and shrubby species)
Origanum vulgare* and other *Origanum* species
Calamintha species*
Hebe or Speedwells: *Veronica** , *Veronicastrum*)
Sea Hollies (*Eryngium* : all species)
Globe Thistle (*Echinops*: all species)



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Other thistle-like plants (Onopordum*, Cirsium, etc)

Myrtle (Myrtus communis)

Cranesbills (wild Geraniums*)

Snapdragon (Antirrhinum)

Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea)

Aquilegia vulgaris (single flowered only)*

Larkspur (Consolida: single flowered only)

Delphiniums (single flowered only)

Viper's Bugloss (Echium vulgare)*

Scabiouses (Knautia*, Scabiosa*, Cephalaria)

Honeywort (Cerinthe)

Iris pseudacorus* and I. siberica,

Lavender (esp. the tall L. 'intermedia' forms)

Sainfoin (Onobrychis)*

Purple Toadflax (Linaria purpurea)

Bell Heather (Erica cinerea)*

Chives* and ornamental garlics (Allium species)

Bellflowers or Campions (Campanulas*; wild sp.)

Comfrey (Symphytum)*

Borage (Borago officinalis)

Escallonia

Brambles* (wild or cultivated)

Raspberries and Blackberries*



LATE SUMMER

Aster Novi-angliae cultivars (hairy-leaved Michaelmas daisy), and Aster amellus and its cultivars; these two species are not invasive.

Buddleja x weyeriana (orange Buddleia)

Some Hardy Fuchsias (forms of F. magellanica)

Cornish Heath (Erica vagans)*

Sedum 'Matrona'

Culinary sage, Meadow Clary (Salvia pratensis)* and other blue-flowered Salvias

Succisa pratensis (Devil's Bit Scabious)*

Native Goldenrod (Solidago virgaurea* only) – other kinds of Goldenrod are very invasive

Marsh Woundwort (Stachys palustris)*

Single- flowered Dahlias

Helianthus x "Lemon Queen"

Strawberry Tree (Arbutus unedo)

Mallow (Malva and Lavatera)

SPECIALLY FOR POLLEN

Single-flowered wild and shrub roses, e.g. Rosa moyesii, Rosa gallica officinalis, R. 'Complicata', R. virginiana, R. canina*, R. pimpinellifolia*, R. mollis*, R. 'Frances E. Lester'; and many others.

Single-flowered poppies (Papaver rhoeas*, P.somniferum, Meconopsis cambrica*)

Yellow Broom*, and broom-like plants (Genista, Cytisus, Dorycnium etc)

GENERALLY NOT MUCH GOOD FOR BUMBLEBEES:

Jasmine; Forsythia; Lilies (Lilium), Arum Lilies (Zantedeschia), Gladiolus; Lilac (Syringa); Magnolia; Hydrangea; Viburnum; Lobelia; Cannas; Crocosmias; Kniphophias, Phormiums, Most Penstemons, Most Umbellifers (Carrot Family: Fennel, Angelica etc.); Bearded Irises; Astilbe; Hemerocallis; Tulips; Alstroemeria.; Sunflowers; Yuccas; Pelargoniums; Pansies; Dianthus (pinks and Sweet Williams) Evening Primrose (Oenothera) Ox-Eye Daisy and most other white daisies; H.T. roses; Most bedding plants, Buddleja Davidii, Sedum 'Herbstfreude'.

Food plants for bees in the countryside

WILDFLOWERS

| Plant | Species benefitting | Uses |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bird's-foot trefoil | Bees | Long season, major food plant |
| Red clover | Bumblebees | Long season |
| White clover | Bumblebees | Long season |
| Bugle | Spring bumblebees | |
| Red dead-nettle | Spring bumblebees | |
| White dead-nettle | Spring bumblebees | |
| Ground ivy | Spring bees | |
| Dandelion | Spring bees | |
| Rest-harrow | Summer bumblebees | |
| Tufted-vetch | Summer bumblebees | |
| Bush vetch | Summer bumblebees | |
| Common vetch | Summer bumblebees | |
| White melilot | Summer bumblebees | |
| Yellow melilot | Summer bumblebees | |
| Comfrey | Summer bumblebees | |
| Woundworts | Summer bumblebees | |
| Marjoram | Summer bumblebees | |
| Musk and Marsh Mallow | Summer bumblebees | |
| Bittersweet | Summer bumblebees | |
| St John's wort | Summer bumblebees | |
| Honeysuckle | Summer bumblebees | |
| Toadflax | Summer bumblebees | |
| Viper's bugloss | Summer bumblebees | |
| Burdock | Summer bumblebees | |
| Greater knapweed | Summer bumblebees | |
| Thistles | Summer bumblebees | |
| Field scabious | Summer bees | |
| Red bartsia | Summer bees | |
| Black horehound | Summer bees | |
| Thyme | Summer bees | |
| Cat's-ear | Summer bees | |
| Knapweed | Summer bees | |
| Hawk-bits | Summer bees | |
| Ragwort | Summer bees & hoverflies | Major food plant |
| Angelica | Summer bees & hoverflies | |
| Other summer umbels | Summer bees & hoverflies | |
| Hogweed | Bees & hoverflies | |

SHRUBS AND TREES

| Plant | Species benefitting | Uses |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Sallow | Spring bees & hoverflies | Major food plant |
| Sloe | Spring bees & hoverflies | Major food plant |
| Guelder rose | Spring bees & hoverflies | |
| Wild Cherry | Spring bees & hoverflies | |
| Hawthorn | Spring bees & hoverflies | Major food plant |
| Gorse | Spring bumblebees | |
| Blackthorn | Spring bumblebees | |
| Broom | Spring bumblebees | Useful food plant |
| Bramble | Summer bees & hoverflies | Stem nesting bees |
| Raspberry | Summer bees & hoverflies | |
| Privet | Summer bumblebees | |
| Ivy | Late bees & hoverflies | |

This text has been adapted from Marc Carlton's bumblebee garden day workshop, held by Buglife. Visit Marc's website for more helpful information on gardening for wildlife www.foxleas.com

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