



Hive Helpers

Pollinator Protection Sheet

Honey bees, cared for by a beekeeper, only pollinate an estimated 5-15% of insect pollinated crops. The rest is up to wild pollinators – including flies, beetles and wasps, as well as bees and butterflies – which don't receive any help from humans, despite their vital role in ecology and farming. In fact, human behaviour often makes life for pollinators difficult and dangerous, leading to the decline of pollinators globally.



Tortoiseshell Butterfly



Buff-Tailed Bumblebee



Canary-Shouldered Thorn Moth



Honey Bee

How has human behaviour caused pollinator numbers to decline?

- Habitat loss and fragmentation, as concrete and mown grass replace wild spaces
- Loss of food – fewer flowers means pollinators face starvation
- Poisoning from pesticides, weed-killers and fungicides

What can I do to help?

FOOD AND DRINK – Get planting! One pot of nectar-rich flowers could make a difference to a bee running on empty. A tray of gravel and water provides a perfect drinking station.

SHELTER AND NESTING AREAS – Leave some areas un-mown, let parts of hedges and borders grow wild and provide bee/bug hotels.

GO PESTICIDE FREE – Stop using chemicals in your garden and, when possible, buy organic food because pesticides are commonly used on huge scales in farming.

SUPPORT POLLINATOR PROJECTS – The **Bumblebee Conservation Trust** researches and protects bumblebees, **Buglife's B-Lines** project repairs fragmented pollinator habitat, **The Wildlife Trusts** have ideas for nature-friendly gardening and the **Blooms for Bees** app helps you share bumblebee sightings.



Planting for pollinators – a simple start:

Crocus bulbs give early bumblebees food when they emerge.

Ox-eye daisies are easy to sow and require very little care.

Buddleia attracts butterflies and it will flower year after year.

Ivy provides essential autumn/winter food for many pollinators.

Sunflowers are fun to grow, they may be taller than you but pollinators can reach them!

Fruit trees & bushes give us and pollinators food! Miniature varieties can be kept in pots.

If you are an organisation looking to get **GREEN**, we can support you!

Check out Hive Helpers' Pollinator Pledge initiative here :

