

FLUTTERINGLY GOOD PLANTS TO ATTRACT BUTTERFLIES !!

- Alyssum
- Aster
- Borage
- Buddleia
- Cosmos
- Day Lily
- Delphinium
- Dianthus
- Goldenrod
- Fennel
- Globe Thistle
- Grasses
- Hollyhocks
- Lavender
- Liatris
- Lupins
- Marigolds
- Nasturtium
- Nettles
- Oregano
- Phlox
- Sage
- Scabiosa
- Shasta Daisy
- Verbena
- Yarrow

BUZZWORTHY PLANTS TO ATTRACT BEES!!

Annuals

- Asters
- Clover
- Marigolds
- Poppies
- Sunflowers
- Zinnias

Perennials

- Buttercups
- Clematis
- Cosmos
- Crocuses
- Dahlias
- Enchinacea
- Foxglove
- Geraniums
- Globe Thistle
- Hollyhocks
- Hyacinth
- Roses
- Sedum
- Snowdrops

Herbs

- Bee Balm
- Catnip
- Coriander
- Fennel

Shrubs

- Blueberry
- Honeysuckle
- Privet

Trees

- Alder
- Crabapple
- Hawthorn
- Hazel
- Mountain Ash
- Sycamore
- Willow

Fruit / Vegetables

- Blackberries
- Cucumber
- Peppers
- Raspberries
- Strawberries
- Wild Garlic

- Lavender
- Mint
- Rosemary
- Sage
- Thyme

Dromiskin Tidy Towns

Taking Steps to support the All Ireland Pollinator Plan!

Useful websites;

www.biodiversityireland.ie

www.noticenature.ie

www.antisce.org

www.ark.ie (Junior Pollinator Plan)

Dromiskin

Embracing Ecology & Buzzing with Biodiversity!

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Let's get Dromiskin
buzzing
& our gardens
fluttering with nature!!

TOP TIPS
To Persuade
POLLINATORS
to ENJOY
our Gardens

Dromiskin Tidy Towns is Taking Action
to Protect Pollinators

Will you Join our Local Effort?

Together We Can Make a Difference!



Introduction

While your garden may be a place of rest and relaxation for you it is also an ecological system all of its own—a habitat for bees, butterflies and other insects. A wildlife friendly garden doesn't mean having to allow your garden go wild! With some thought and planning your garden can be a haven for both you and local pollinators and you can feel satisfied as you sit back in your garden that you are doing your bit for nature!

In Ireland most pollination is carried out by insects, particularly bees and butterflies, with numbers of both on the decline. It is important therefore that we make our community a welcoming space for them. Remember that while bees and butterflies need nectar rich plants for survival our fruit, vegetables and other crops need pollination to thrive. Most of our 5 a Day fruit and vegetables require pollination—without it we wouldn't have plentiful supplies of broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, turnip, carrots, tomato, strawberries, raspberries or even blackberries as well as lots of other crops!

TOP TIPS to Get your Garden Buzzing and Fluttering for Nature!

1. Leave a strip of long grass! The most cost effective way to help pollinators, including bees and butterflies, is to reduce how often you cut your grass. This allows wildflowers to grow amongst the longer grass. If you like manicured gardens don't panic, you don't have to let your whole lawn go wild—just leave a strip of long grass along a fence or hedge to make your garden bee and butterfly friendly.

2. Let the Dandelions Bloom! Even though we've grown to dislike them they provide vital food for pollinators, especially in early Spring when little else is flowering, in our gardens—is there even a small area of your overall garden where you can allow dandelions to thrive in early Spring?

3. Plant flowers native to our local area! Bees evolved with wildflowers and the bees in our local area will respond best to the flowers that they "grew up with"! If you're not sure go to your local garden centre and ask for a native wildflower mix or check with "Dr Google" before ordering seeds.

4. Plant flowers with single petals! Flowers with a single row of petals, rather than flowers with more than one row, are more attractive to bees and butterflies. Single petalled flowers have more pollen so they provide a little more food for hungry pollinators.

5. Buddleia is a butterfly's best buddy! Buddleia, commonly known as the butterfly plant, produces nectar that has a higher content of sucrose, glucose and fructose than most other plants. It is also a very pretty plant but is fast growing so, if space is limited, consider a dwarf specimen which won't take over your garden but still attract butterflies.

6. Plant herbs in your garden that attract bees! If you have space for a little herb garden that's a great way to attract bees as well as providing fresh herbs for culinary and medicinal purposes in your home. Mint, Sage, Rosemary, Thyme, Catnip, Coriander, Fennel and Lavender will all attract a variety of pollinators.

7. Minimise, or ideally, stop using pesticides as pollinators are susceptible to chemicals used in gardens and public spaces. If you really have to use pesticides make sure you only do so after dusk when pollinators are least active.

8. Plant for colour! Adult butterflies are attracted to red, yellow, orange, pink and purple blossoms that are flat topped or clustered and have short flower tubes.

9. Your garden can be a kaleidoscope of colour for impact while still providing sustenance for pollinators such as bees and butterflies! Plant Asters, Clover, Cosmos, Crocuses, Dahlias, Foxglove, Geraniums, Hollyhocks, Hyacinth, Marigold, Poppies, Roses, Snowdrops or Sunflowers to get your garden buzzing and fluttering with nature!

10. To attract bees plant yellow, white, blue and purple flowers as these colours are more attractive to bees than the pink, orange and reds that butterflies love! Your garden doesn't have to comprise exclusively of colours that attract pollinators - having a good amount of these colours among your overall planting scheme will keep your garden buzzing!

11. Plant flowers that bloom in sequence! If all your flowers bloom at the same time bees and butterflies will have a feast but then run out of food before the end of Summer. Plant a variety of flowers that will bloom throughout the seasons to keep the pollinators in our community fed and happy!

12. Did you know that butterflies only feed in the sun? Choose a location that receives mid-morning to mid-afternoon sun and plant your pollinator friendly plants there!

13. If you're looking for common garden plants that will feed butterflies through all their life stages as well as making your garden look pretty as a picture why not consider the following in whatever combination and style suits your space? Aster, Buddleia, Bee Balm, Clover, Delphinium, Honeysuckle, Lobelia, Penstemon, Phlox and Salvia.

14. Plant flowering vegetable and fruit plants! Berried shrubs and fruit trees produce fragrant flowers and fruit that are attractive to bees and butterflies and they, in turn, are beneficial to your flowering vegetables and fruit plants so planting them in your gardens will benefit you both! Bees love blackberries, strawberries, apples, raspberries and blueberries so grow your own fruit and let the pollination begin!

15. Cherish the Caterpillar!! It may not be the pretty garden addition that the butterfly is, but if we don't "grow" caterpillars we will have no butterflies, so include caterpillar food in your garden as doing so can greatly increase your chances of attracting unusual and uncommon butterflies while giving you yet another reason to plant an increasing variety of native plants. Caterpillars feed on a quite limited variety of plants including parsley, dill, fennel, carrots and violets in addition to a number of broadleaf trees.

16. Provide butterflies with a place to rest in your garden - they need sun for orientation and to warm their wings for flight! Place flat stones in your garden to supply space for butterflies to rest and soak up the sun.

17. Give butterflies a place for "puddling" - butterflies often gather on wet sand or mud to "puddle", drinking water and extracting minerals from damp puddles. Make a "puddle" with coarse sand in a shallow pan and place it in the soil among the nectar rich plants and flowers making sure to keep the sand moist during the season.

18. Concentrate on making your garden as "flowery" as possible in July and August as recent research has found that this is when the honeybee has to fly much greater distances to get its fill of nectar. Hunger and exhaustion makes them more prone to diseases, so if we add to the nectar and pollen supply in those months, this will have the most direct effect on our pollinators welfare.