

# Planting for pollinators and wildlife!

Don't be worried if you don't notice results straight away for these activities and they require potentially more planning than some of the others! Also the success of your planting does depend on the wonderful Lancashire weather, but the activity is really fun and great to watch growth over time.

**Please only do this activity on your own private land, or where you have permission from the landowner.**



## JOHN MUIR DISCOVER AWARD Summer Holiday Family Challenge



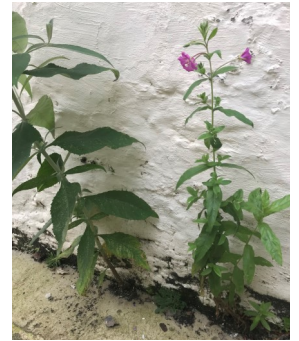


## Leave a wild area

*This activity is suitable if you have quite a large private garden or yard, plus don't mind leaving an area to develop over time.*

Resources and materials that could be used:

- If you have small children or pets, maybe think if your wild area needs protection or a temporary barrier.



How to:

- Choose an area of your lawn not to mow, sit and watch it grow, measure it's height and find out what flowers have grown there over time.
- If you have a yard, maybe leave an area of weeds to flower. Record what plants grow and what pollinators visit the flowers.

## What's that buzz?

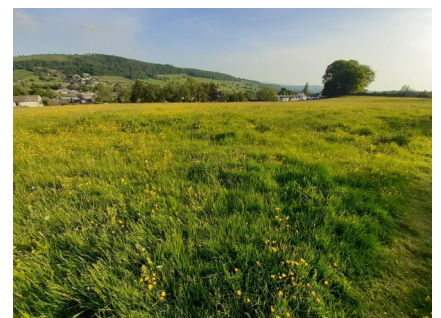
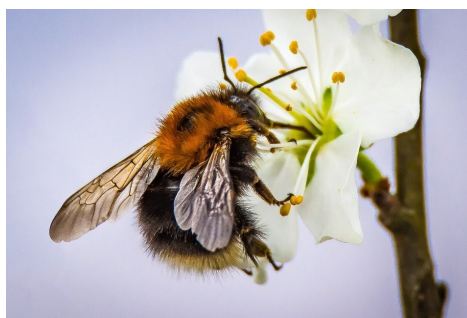
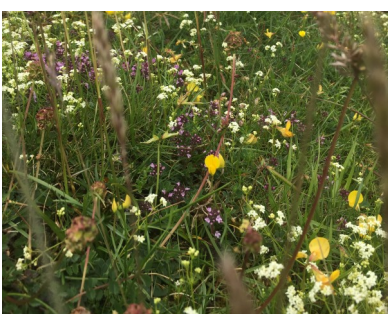
*If you have a wildflower area, allotment, a garden or a local park or wild area with flowers, then you should be able to hear a buzz.*

Resources and materials that could be used

- A sunny day
- Pollinator bingo sheet

How to:

- On a sunny day head to your flower area and sit quietly somewhere you can see a big patch of flowers. Watch any insects that come to investigate or collect pollen and nectar. Take photos or record what pollinators they are, look on pollinator bingo sheet or download the iRecord app to tell the world how important that flower is for insects.
- <https://irecord.org.uk/app/> - link here for the iRecord free app and information for recording. Contribute your species sightings with GPS acquired coordinates through your phone, provide a description and photograph, thus providing scientists with important new biodiversity information that contributes to nature conservation, planning, research and education.





# Planting wildflowers for insects

*This activity is suitable if you have a garden or yard, window ledge or even a communal outdoor space. For this activity, you can either use your garden and the soil on the ground, or you can use pots and old containers for planting into. The plant pots can go inside or outside at the start, but if you want pollinators to visit the flowers, do make sure you pop them outside when they have bloomed. Then sit and watch the buzzing action.*

**Resources and materials** that could be used (but you may be more creative and think of other things):

- Wildflower seeds (see below for more info about where to purchase or acquire)
- Plant pots
- Plastic bottles
- Plastic or wooden containers
- Egg boxes
- Newspaper or paper
- Compost or soil from garden



**How to:**

- To create a pot to grow flowers in, cut a container down to size, being careful of sharp edges. If you are using a plastic bottle, wash it out first then cut the top half off.
- In any container, make sure there are small drainage holes at the bottom, you can use a drawing pin to make them or small scissors.



- If the container has large holes already in it, put some small stones/pebbles at the bottom. This will prevent all the water rushing out.





- If you have newspaper or paper, lay it flat and then roll it round a glass or bottle, (see photos below). Then fold the bottom in to make it flat and use stickers or tape to secure base. Slide paper pot off glass, and flatten base. You don't need to put holes in the bottom as excess water will just filter out through paper.
- Fill container with soil or compost, water it a bit, then sprinkle on some seeds.



- Add a small amount of soil to cover seeds. Might be best to leave them on indoors on a window ledge first. Then when the seeds have germinated, they can go outside. If they look too big for their containers, transfer seedlings into bigger container. Don't forget to water them to keep them wet.
- When flowering, take note what insects come to visit your wildflowers.

## Wildflower seeds where to purchase or acquire

- The good news is that seeds are relatively easy to get hold of and shouldn't be too expensive, depending on what seeds you get. Look out for the "Perfect for Pollinators" or "bee friendly" signs on packets. Make sure they are native UK species too.
- You can [buy them from a local garden centre](#), DIY, supermarket, or online shop. Alternatively, you could try and [get donations from other wildflower growers](#) or collect them yourself (with land owners permission).
- Follow the link below for some information on how to buy wildflower seeds, what to look for and top tips: <https://www.growwilduk.com/wildflowers/how-grow-wildflowers/planning/how-get-wildflower-seeds>
- Bumblebee Conservation Trust have lots of great advice here: <https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/bees-needs/grow-more/>
- Friends of the Earth are offering a Bee Saver Kit, for a small donation,. This includes a packet of wildflower seeds and helpful guides and resources. More information here: <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/bees/donate-save-britains-bees-get-your-bee-saver-kit-today>

