

Bee Healthy Borders

When choosing plants for your garden, select nectar rich flowers which will provide an energy source for bees and other pollinating insects throughout the year. There is a huge selection of garden plants that are great for bees. The Bumblebee Conservation Trust has a huge selection on their website:

<https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/gardeningadvice/>

In a garden setting a carefully selected range of non-native flowers can lengthen the flowering season, providing nectar for early emerging and late flying bees. Different bees will like different shaped flowers – long-tongued bees will love Salvias with deep flowers, whereas short-tongued bumblebees will prefer shallower flowers. Create large patches of the same kind of flowers so the bees can find lots of nectar without having to fly too far.

For our Bee Healthy Borders we chose the following flowering perennials to provide nectar and pollen for short and long tongued bees throughout their flying season:

Allium 'Christophii'

Allium 'Purple Sensation'

Aquilegia vulgaris

Aster Veilchenkonigen

Cotoneaster horizontalis

Digitalis purpurea

Echinops 'Star Frost'

Geranium maculatum

Hyssop officinalis

Nepeta faassenii 'Persian Blue'

Nepeta racemosa 'Walkers Low'

Origanum laevigatum 'Hopleys'

Origanum vulgare

Pulmonaria officinalis

Rosmarinus officinalis Miss Jessups Upright

Salvia nemorosa 'Pink Friesland'

Stachys byzantine 'Big Ears'