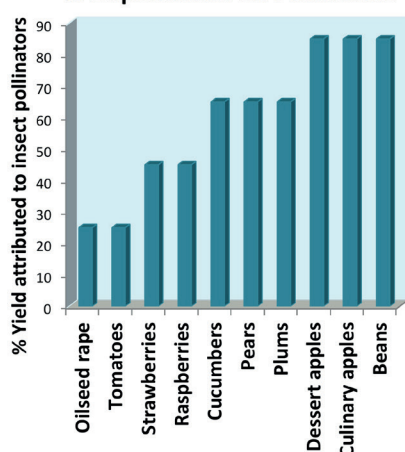


Why & How to Increase Pollinators on Your Farm

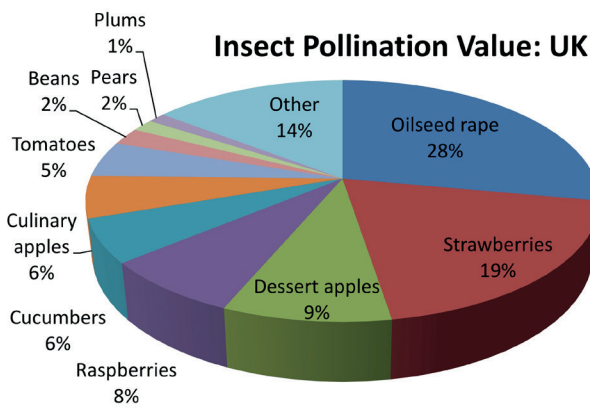
Practical Guide

Bumblebees, hoverflies and solitary bees are amongst the many pollinating insects that contribute significantly to agricultural productivity. These insects also pollinate wildflowers and are a vital part of other ecological systems. Cross compliance and greening can help provide for pollinator populations on your farm.

% Dependence on Pollinators

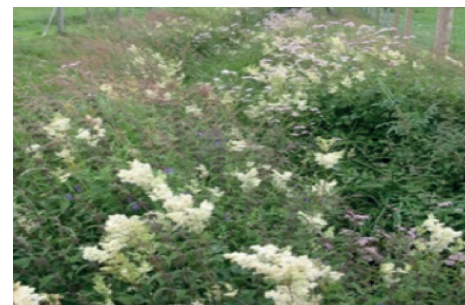
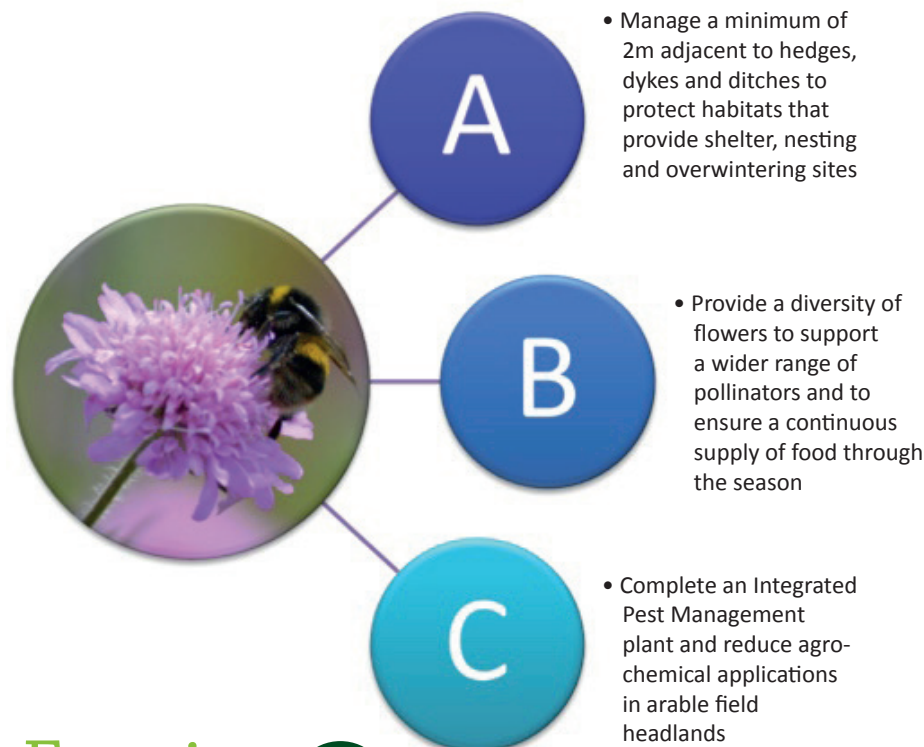


Insect Pollination Value: UK

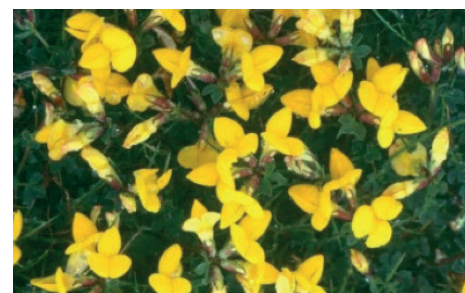


Based on contribution of insect pollinators to yield, production value and crop area. Adapted from Vanbergen *et al.* 2014.

Providing for pollinators in three easy steps:



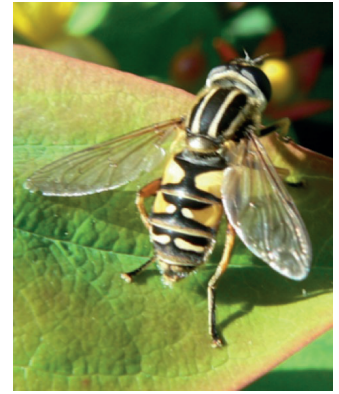
A minimum 2m strip ensures you meet GAEC.



Legumes including clovers, birdsfoot trefoil, and vetches provide protein-rich pollen to allow breeding.

A

Leave rough areas, banks, hedges, dykes, ditches and field margins undisturbed to provide cover and shelter which are vital nesting and overwintering habitats. Keep field margins between 2m and 5m and manage with late season cutting or grazing to avoid disturbing active nesting sites and to allow plants to flower. Protect areas rich in wildflowers such as species rich grasslands. Plant willows & other woody shrubs in farm woodlands, hedgerows or along watercourses to provide important early season resources for pollinators coming out of hibernation.

**B**

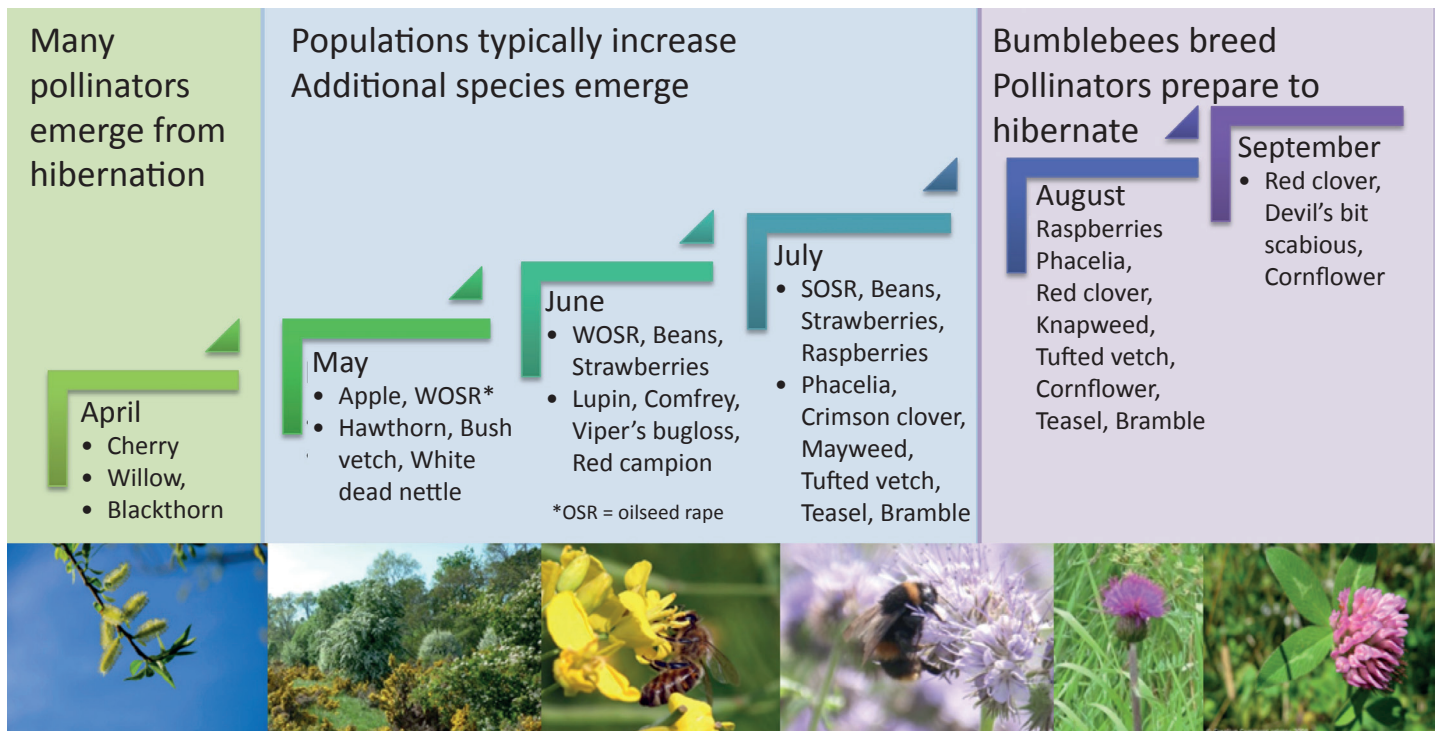
Provide a diversity of plants to benefit a wide range of pollinators and ensure a continuous supply of sugar-rich nectar and protein-rich pollen from March till September. Commercial wildflower or nectar-rich mixtures can provide important sources of food that flower during the summer and later in the season e.g.

clovers, vetches, phacelia, knapweed, teasel and cornflower. Incorporate clover species into grassland swards to provide food for pollinators and a cheap alternative to nitrogen fertiliser. Choose sunny, south facing slopes for greatest benefit to insects.

C

Complete an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan to ensure that pesticide and fertiliser applications are minimised by using crop rotations, choosing resistant varieties and using pest thresholds. This will protect semi-natural habitats from fertilisers and pesticides and reduce the development of resistance in pests, weeds and diseases. Precision farming techniques will reduce drift of agro-chemicals into headlands, which discourages more aggressive weeds like cleavers and dockens, and helps encourage wildflowers in less productive areas.

Your calendar for providing for pollinators



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