

KENT'S PLAN BEE



September 2021 Newsletter

Caterpillar Food Plants

September is the time for caterpillars to get themselves ready for winter by eating plants for energy to transform into butterflies the following spring. We put together some guides on which food plants caterpillars need for 10 different butterfly and moth species. Plant those flowers in your garden to help butterflies and moths throughout their whole lifecycle. Find the guides in our Resources and Information photo album on our Facebook Page:

Moth Caterpillar Food Plants:

<https://www.facebook.com/KentsPlanBee/photos/a.107187048198490/185346867049174>

Butterfly Caterpillar Food Plants:

<https://www.facebook.com/KentsPlanBee/photos/a.107187048198490/186008013649726>



Organic September

Soil Association created Organic September to raise awareness of climate and soil benefits of going organic. There are also lots of benefits for pollinators, as it helps improve their habitats and health. By organically growing herbs for pollinators, and soil-saving plants such as clover, you can improve the soil in your garden and improve your garden's overall health. For more information, visit the Soil Associations' webpage on Organic September:

https://www.soilassociation.org/take-action/organic-living/organic-september/?fbclid=IwAR1B7RuRXyXWgc8yt9nZjgpCeBBQ_5Xq2cZUTlbZyrvU-mwFJt-SloGxypA

New Gardening Resources

Autumn is the perfect time to get out into the garden. We have produced some new Gardening for Pollinator guides to help you with planning your garden over the winter, ready for next spring. From year-round plants for pollinators, to providing for pollinators' nesting needs, and ways to manage your lawn for wildflowers, there is a guide for you and your garden. Find them in our Resources and Information photo album on our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=KentsPlanBee&set=a.107187048198490>



Autumn Gardening Tips – What to do in October?

Plant bulbs ready for next year. These are the perfect bulbs to plant for pollinators this month:

		
Snowdrops for Winter	Crocuses for Late Winter / Spring	Alliums for Summer

Build a bug hotel. Bug hotels are great protection for overwintering adult pollinators and their larvae. Make sure to fill your hotel with a mixture of these materials:

Bamboo Tubes	Pinecones	Leaf litter	Twigs and Dead Wood
			
Solitary Bees lay their eggs in the tubes, and then seal them up with food inside for the larvae.	Small adult beetles and flies will use the gaps between the seed scales to overwinter in.	Queen bumblebees and adult beetles may use the leaf litter to hide in during the winter.	The small nooks in the bark are great to lay eggs, and some beetle larvae eat dead wood.

Flowers for Autumn Pollinators. Perfect for feeding late-season pollinators:

Bees and Wasps - Ivy - Sedum - Honeysuckle - Scabious	 	Butterflies and Moths - Honeysuckle - Ivy - Jasmine - Evening Primrose	 
Beetles - Cornflowers - Ivy - Meadowsweet - Wild carrot	 	Flies and Hoverflies - Sunflower - Sedum - Hemp agrimony - Blackberry	 

Wildflowers to See in October

Bristly Oxtongue



Ivy



Gorse



What did we see in September?

September was a busy month for the last of the summer's pollinators. We saw Buff-tailed bumbles stocking up on last minute pollen, and second brood Red Admirals enjoying the warmer days. And let's not forget the numerous moths and their caterpillars still about at this time of year.



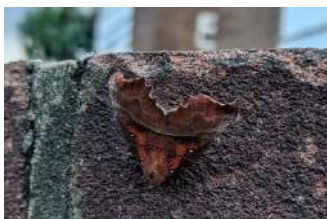
Buff-tailed Bumblebee



Red Admiral



Elephant Hawk Moth caterpillar



The Herald



Artichoke Plume



Garden Carpet

We would love to see your finds and are always looking for more photos to use in our Newsletters and on our Facebook page. If you would like to see your photos of pollinators featured, email your pictures to planbee@kent.gov.uk or post them on our Facebook page directly.

Gardening for a Wilder Kent Event 23rd Oct

Join Kent Wildlife Trust and their Gardening for a Wilder Kent team at an Open Garden event on the Saturday 23rd October in East Farleigh. Learn about and look for late-season pollinators, as well as a woodland walk in a beautiful 7-acre garden. This is a ticketed event so please head over to Kent Wildlife Trust's event webpage to book your ticket and avoid disappointment:

<https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/events>



Keep up to date with the latest news via our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/KentsPlanBee>



If you received this email indirectly and would like to subscribe to our mailing list, please email us on the address below with the subject line "Sign Up". If you wish to unsubscribe from this mailing list, please email us on the address below with the subject line "Unsubscribe".

Do you have a Kent pollinator news story or event that you would like featured in our newsletter? Have you created a pollinator friendly community space? Got your neighbours together to create a row of pollinator friendly gardens? Or do you have an event about how to help Kent's pollinators you would like advertised? Email it to the address below and we will be in contact about a potential space in the Newsletter.

planbee@kent.gov.uk

All the previous editions of the Newsletter have now been added to our webpage. You can download them as PDFs or share the website address on your social media. Find all the Newsletters on the Pollinators section of Kent County Council's website, or follow this link:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/nature-and-biodiversity/pollinators/kents-plan-bee-pollinator-action-plan/kents-plan-bee-newsletter>

Edited by Hannah Simmons, Graduate Biodiversity Officer, Kent County Council.

For a Pollinator Friendly Garden of England

