

## BEES NEEDS WEEK – 13-17 JULY 2020

This is an annual event co-ordinated by Defra alongside other charities, businesses, conservation groups and academic institutions to raise awareness of bees and other pollinators that play a crucial role in food production and agriculture with an estimated contribution of £500m a year to UK agriculture. They are also critical to the balance of our ecosystem.

There are 1,500 species of insects pollinating plants in the UK including:

- 25 species of bumble bee
- 260 species of solitary bee
- and the honey bees



In the UK the population of pollinators has fallen by 50% in the last 50 years due to habitat loss, invasive species, pests and disease, climate change and pesticide use.

Maybe there is an opportunity now for change, the Covid-19 pandemic has encouraged more than 60% of adults to appreciate time in the outdoors in green and natural spaces according to Natural England's People and Nature Survey for England. We can all help to prevent further loss of native species by following one or more of these 5 simple actions and help pollinators to thrive:

- Grow more flowers, shrubs and trees
- Let you garden grow wild
- Cut grass less often
- Don't disturb insect nests and hibernation spots
- Avoid use of pesticides

Another way to help is to monitor local bee and pollinator populations in a local park or green space (anywhere with flowers to attract pollinators) – between now and the end of September and share your findings with the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme. Check the link on counting insects before setting out to complete your survey – there's lots of advice and guidance [here](#).

Why not do a survey this week during Bees Needs Week.

More information available about bees and pollinators [here](#).

