



# Green Spaces

## Digital Toolkit

### The Importance of Pollinators to Protect the Planet

Over the last one hundred years unprecedented changes to our landscape have resulted in major loss, fragmentation and deterioration of our wildflower and meadow habitats, causing our bees, butterflies and hoverflies to suffer.

Alarmingly, the 2016 State of Nature Report showed that 60% of pollinator species are in decline and over 250 species of native pollinator are at significant risk of extinction. We know that pollinators face many pressures, including habitat loss but also diseases, climate change, and pollution.

Bees, butterflies, birds, bats, and other pollinators promote and increase food production by bringing pollen from one flower to another, leading to food security and nutrition.

These declines will have serious implications on our own food sources and will further exacerbate the decline in our native flora, trees and hedges.

To help reverse this loss, we need individuals to engage with their local wildlife, and help to conserve it.



# YDMT's Top Tips

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) is a small charity supporting the people, landscape and wildlife of this special area.

## 1. Don't be too tidy!

Leaving uncut grass, stems and stalks, and nooks and crannies around your garden provides shelter and nesting sites for bees and other pollinators.



## 2. Plant in blocks of at least three.

This makes it easier for bees to locate your plants and find their food.



## 3. Buy organically grown plants and seeds when you can.

Shop-bought plants may have been treated with pesticides that affect bee's behaviour.




## 4. Plant flowers in which you can see the pollen and nectar yourself.


If you can see it, most pollinators probably can too. Many bedding plants are sterile and pretty useless for pollinators.



## Did you know?

 Half of our 25 bumblebee species are in decline

 A wildflower patch will bring a wide variety of wildlife into your garden and provide colours, scents and sounds throughout the summer. Wildflowers are amazing for bumblebees and other pollinating insects like hoverflies and they also provide food for birds, voles, shrews, hedgehogs and other small mammals.

 Keep bumblebees and pollinators happy by planting seedlings grown in your very own seedling pots! All you need is some junk mail or newspaper, tape and a spice pot. Plant thyme, rosemary, lavender and hyssop to keep bees really happy.

Keep in touch with the latest stories, videos, news, events and resources by visiting [www.ydmt.org](http://www.ydmt.org)