



*Bee Friendly*  
----- save the bees -----

Bees can see the colour purple more clearly than any other colour and some of the best bee plants have purple flowers, such as:

### Lavender



### Alliums



### Catmint





*Bee Friendly*  
----- save the bees -----

Most bees are most active from February/ March to September/October. Include early Spring bulbs to help early bees and later-flowering plants to give bees the longest season of food plants, such as:

### Snowdrops



### Crocus



### Sedum



### Aster





*Bee Friendly*  
----- save the bees -----

Tubular-shaped flowers are an important source of food for long-tongued bees such as the garden bumblebee, *Bombus hortorum*. Include plants such as:

### Foxgloves



### Pentstemon





*Bee Friendly*  
----- save the bees -----

## The need for bees

We need bees. They are vital to stable, healthy food supplies and key to the varied and nutritious diets we want. Bees are perfectly adapted to pollinate, helping plants grow, breed and produce food by transferring pollen between flowering plants and therefore keeping the cycle of life turning.

The vast majority of plants we need for food rely on pollination, especially by bees. Bees also pollinate around 80% of wildflowers in Europe, so our countryside would be far less interesting and beautiful without them.

But bees are in trouble. There is growing concern at bee decline across the world. This decline is caused by a combination of stresses, from loss of habitat and food sources to exposure to pesticides and the effects of climate breakdown.

More than ever before, we need to recognise the importance of bees to nature and to our lives. And we need to turn that into action to ensure they don't just survive but thrive.

