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PLANTS: TREES AND SHRUBS

Add flowering shrubs and herbaceous plants



Add extra wildlife value to existing gardens by planting flowering shrubs and herbaceous annuals and perennials among the ornamental plants. Useful plants include Mahonia, Flowering Currant and Verbena.

Suitability	Low, medium and high density housing.
Management type	Increasing floral diversity of existing planted areas through additional planting of flowering shrubs and herbaceous plants.
Supplier information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult your local Wildlife Trust for advice on suitable suppliers. • The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) produces annually-updated lists of plants suitable for pollinators: http://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators. • Information on how to source wildflower seeds can be found at: http://www.growwilduk.com/where-get-uk-native-wildflower-seeds-plants.
Community engagement?	Yes – potential to involve volunteer residents in helping to plant shrubs and herbs.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a greater variety of flowering resources throughout the year for pollinating invertebrates. • Provides shelter and nesting habitat for a wide range of wildlife. • Increase in floral diversity and consequent invertebrate diversity with positive knock-on effects to overall biodiversity.
Costs/Disbenefit	Financial cost: Low (depending on number of plants).
Level of ongoing maintenance	High.



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		Notes
How achieved	<p>Plant shrubs and herbaceous plants known to have flowers attractive to pollinators and that flower at different times of year: in existing spaces among ornamental plants in designated areas.</p> <p>Native species are preferable and include Ivy, Wayfaring Tree, Guelder Rose, Barberry and <i>Daphne mezereum</i>. Some non-invasive ornamental species can be used to augment areas, particularly those that flower at times of year when few native species do, and include: Mahonia, Ceanothus, Lavender, Flowering Currant, and <i>Verbena bonariensis</i> – see the RHS 'Plants for Pollinators' lists for suitable plants.</p> <p>Avoid double-flowered varieties as these often produce very little pollen and nectar.</p>	
Timing of activity	Ideal planting times are spring and autumn but follow any species-specific planting advice.	
Long-term management	<p>Annual trimming of plants, preferably following flowering.</p> <p>Plants will require watering during dry periods, particularly container gardens which may need daily watering in hot weather.</p>	
Monitoring success	<p>General recording (see page 6).</p> <p>Invertebrate surveys – a butterfly timed count could be set up as part of the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme http://www.ukbms.org.</p> <p>Flower-Insect Timed (FIT) counts can be conducted as part of the National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (PoMS) https://www.ceh.ac.uk/pollinator-monitoring.</p>	