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## PLANTS: TREES AND SHRUBS

# Plant container gardens



Containers are particularly useful if there is limited green space. You could use hanging baskets, window-boxes, tubs and pots. Both native wildflowers and ornamental flowers, shrubs and herbs can be grown.

<b>Suitability</b>	Low, medium and high density housing.
<b>Management type</b>	Increasing floral diversity.
<b>Supplier information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult your local Wildlife Trust for advice on suitable suppliers.</li> <li>• Aim to use native species that are good for attracting invertebrates. Augment with suitable ornamental species where appropriate. The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) produces annually-updated lists of plants suitable for pollinators: <a href="http://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators">http://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators</a>.</li> <li>• Information on how to source wildflower seeds can be found at: <a href="http://www.growwilduk.com/where-get-uknative-wildflower-seeds-plants">http://www.growwilduk.com/where-get-uknative-wildflower-seeds-plants</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Community engagement?</b>	Yes – potential to involve volunteer residents in helping to create their own container gardens and/or plant shrubs and herbs in existing borders, beds and/or containers and window-boxes etc.
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide flowering resources in areas with limited green space.</li> <li>• Increase in floral diversity and consequent invertebrate diversity with positive knock-on effects to overall biodiversity.</li> </ul>
<b>Costs/Disbenefit</b>	Financial cost: Low (depending on number of plants).
<b>Level of ongoing maintenance</b>	Medium or high.



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		Notes
<b>How achieved</b>	<p>To create container gardens, use a mix of hanging baskets, window-boxes, tubs, pots and anything that can be re-purposed, according to the space available.</p> <p>Containers can be sown with native wildflower seed mixes or planted with native plant species and augmented with suitable ornamental plant species.</p> <p>Plant shrubs and herbs in containers in suitable locations. Include species of known value to pollinators – see the RHS ‘Plants for Pollinators’ lists for suitable plants. Avoid double-flowered varieties, as they contain little nectar or pollen.</p>	
<b>Timing of activity</b>	<p>Planting is best in autumn or early spring. Sow seeds in early spring. Trim plants 1-2 times per year, preferably after they have finished flowering. Planting can be throughout the year in containers.</p>	
<b>Long-term management</b>	<p>Annual trimming of shrubby plants, and cutting back herbaceous plants at the end of the season.</p> <p>Dead-heading (removing dead flower heads) can promote extended flowering. But don’t remove all dead flower heads, as they are used by invertebrates.</p> <p>Plants need regular watering, especially during hot and dry weather.</p>	
<b>Monitoring success</b>	<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 <a href="http://www.ukbms.org">http://www.ukbms.org</a>.</p> <p>Flower-Insect Timed (FIT) counts can be conducted as part of the National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (PoMS) <a href="https://www.ceh.ac.uk/pollinator-monitoring">https://www.ceh.ac.uk/pollinator-monitoring</a>.</p>	