

UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

@ RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2026

Plant list

***Achillea millefolium* 'Lilac Beauty' - yarrow**

Very pollinator friendly due to accessible nectar and flat-topped head offers 'landing pad', drought-resistant.

***Allium* 'Purple Sensation' – Dutch garlic**

A pollinator magnet providing a critical food source for bees, butterflies, hoverflies and other insects.

***Carex muskingumensis* – palm sedge or musk sedge**

Offers significant wildlife benefits by offering essential habitat, food and environmental stability. Provides year round cover for small mammals, beneficial insects and birds.

***Crataegus laevigata* 'Crimson Cloud' - hawthorn**

This native tree provides year round ecological benefits with its dense thickets great for shelter for small mammals and nesting sites and its berries providing an essential food source for birds in autumn/winter.

***Digitalis purpurea* 'Pam's Choice' – foxglove**

Important source for long tongued bees. Caterpillar food plant. But is toxic to humans and some animals.

***Foeniculum vulgare* 'Purpureum' – bronze fennel**

Umbrella shaped flowers a magnet for pollinators. Drought-resistant.

***Geum* 'Pretticoats Peach'**

This plant attracts many pollinators with its nectar and pollen rich open flowers which have an extended flowering season.

***Hesperis matronalis* – dame's violet**

Attractive to bees and other pollinators. With flowers highly fragrant at night this makes them a crucial nectar source for moths, which in turn supports bat populations. Also attracts beneficial insects such as ladybirds and lacewings.

***Iris pseudacorus* – yellow iris**

A striking UK native aquatic perennial that provides excellent shelter for wildlife including insects and amphibians. Good for emerging dragonflies (something to cling to and dry out wings).

***Knautia macedonica* 'Melton Pastels' – Macedonian scabious**

Long flowering season pincushion flowers, great for many different bumblebees, solitary bees and butterflies, drought-resistant.

***Linaria* 'Peachy' – toadflax**

Long flowering spikes are attractive to pollinators, especially bumblebees and with a long flowering season provides nectar when other plants have stopped flowering. Also serves as a larval plant food for various moth species.

***Lychnis viscaria* 'Snow Cloud'**

Attractive to pollinators, including bees, butterflies and hoverflies, this plant has a large tap root which also makes it drought tolerant.

***Menyanthes trifoliata* - bogbean**

Native aquatic plant that provides vital shelter for amphibians, surface cover for aquatic invertebrates and early spring nectar for pollinators. Its floating habitat mats support dragonflies and provides food for the Elephant Hawk Moth larvae.

***Nepeta racemosa* 'Walker's Low' – catmint**

A pollinator magnet supporting bees, butterflies and moths, it is also the caterpillar food plant for the mint moth.

***Primula beesiana* – bee's primrose**

A valuable pollinator-friendly plant for damp or boggy areas. Supports bees, butterflies, moths and hoverflies from late spring to early summer.

***Primula japonica* 'Alba' – Japanese primrose**

A vital early nectar source for pollinators.

***Pulmonaria* 'Moonshine' – lungwort**

Great for early pollinators such as the Hairy-footed flower bee and bee flies.

***Sesleria heufleriana* – Balkan blue grass**

Pollinator friendly source of early nectar for insects and shelter and habitats for insects and small animals.

***Thymus serpyllum albus* – white flowered creeping thyme**

Food plant for caterpillars, particularly large blue and common blue butterflies, good food plant for pollinators, drought-resistant.

***Trollius* 'Cheddar' – Cheddar globeflower**

The creamy yellow buttercup like flowers are attractive to pollinators. Also, supports insect populations and a food plant for the larvae of the carpet moth.