

## Marc's Pollinator Garden Plant List 2015 – Long Version

This is a list of plants currently growing in our garden, with comments about the plants' qualities, and their insect visitors. There are currently over 200 types in the garden (excluding Roses, which I am still assessing). As all gardeners know, plants come and go, some die out for no obvious reason, others prove unexpectedly invasive and have to be banished. So gardens change, and my planting list has changed over the years. Currently I have no Nepetas (Catmint). These are in fact very good insect forage, especially for bees, but I have also found them to be magnets for cats, which tend to lie on them, chew them and damage them. As we try to encourage birds to the garden we don't need any plants that attract cats!

I have found the plants that I have highlighted in the list with a blue background to be particularly successful as pollen or nectar sources for insects. If you are short of space or want to make a highly effective border for pollinators concentrate on these and plant them in large groups.

Plants that are found wild in the UK are denoted '(UK)' in the 'Geographical Origin' column.

The list is followed at the end by a separate list of species growing in the garden that have no apparent interest for insects. Some of these are grown for ornament only (such as a winter-flowering Daphne). This demonstrates the point that you don't have to be dogmatic and exclusive when you create a pollinator-friendly garden. There is also room for flowers grown for aesthetic reasons only.

Other plants are on the second list because I grew them experimentally, and they have turned out following observation not to attract any pollinating insects. Some of these are native wild flowers.

### Geographical origins

I selected most of the plants for the garden purely for their attractiveness to pollinators, based on my own observations over the last decade. This planting scheme evolved based on my experience, and was not the result of any deliberate policy on my part to grow plants from any geographical area, although I admit that I now grow more British wild flowers than most people would in their gardens, simply because they interest me, and with years of experience I have worked out how to grow them in gardens.

	Number	% of total
Europe (inc. UK)	161	77
Eastern Asia	10	5
Western Asia	3	1
Found across Eurasia (inc. UK)	11	5
N. America	17	8
S. America	1	0
Aus./NZ	4	2
S. Africa	1	0
	208	100

When I make an analysis of the geographic origins of all the plants in the garden, it turns out that about three quarters are from Europe (including Britain and Ireland), and most of the other are from Eurasia. This is summarized in the table on the left. Where the plant is a hybrid or cultivar I have used the area of origin of its wild ancestors. Not much at all from the Southern hemisphere or from North America. Interestingly, this empirical geographical breakdown broadly matches the recommendations from the RHS 'Plants for Bugs' research that was published in 2015: concentrate on native plants and their close relatives from the Northern hemisphere, so-called 'near natives'.

## List 1 – Plants for Pollinators

Genus	Species or cultivar name	English Name	Geographical Area of origin	Comments	Plant Family *
Achillea	millefolium pink-flowered form	Yarrow	Northern hemisphere (UK)	Yarrow's attractiveness to insect pollinators seems to vary, I plan to give it more observation.	Asteraceae
Achillea	ptarmica	Sneezewort	Europe (UK)	Attractive to small solitary bees. This is the single flowered wild form.	Asteraceae
Aconitum	Carmichaelii Arendsii	Monkshood	Eastern Asia	Late flowering. Planted as a food source for any late <i>Bombus hortorum</i> colonies. (Long-tongued bumblebee). NB <i>Aconitums</i> are poisonous, wear gloves when cutting back.	Ranunculaceae
Aconitum	napellus anglicum	Wild Monkshood	Europe (UK)	Mainstay for <i>B. hortorum</i> early in the season. Very easy to grow in a damp place and has long flowering season. This is the wild form from SW England, but other garden forms of <i>A. napellus</i> are similar.	Ranunculaceae
Aconitum	'Sparks variety'	Monkshood	Eastern Asia	Used by <i>B. hortorum</i> in mid summer when <i>A. napellus</i> is over.	Ranunculaceae
Agapanthus	'Bressingham Blue'		Garden hybrid of <i>A. inapertus</i> from South Africa	A smallish, deciduous, dark blue <i>Agapanthus</i> . Looks good in large pots and mainly grown for ornament, but the pendant flowers attract <i>Bombus pascuorum</i> which is an unexpected bonus. Not completely hardy.	Alliaceae
<b>Agastache</b>	<b>rugosa</b> <b>'Liquorice bue'</b>	Anise Hyssop, Korean mint	Eastern Asia	Long season, easy to grow in a well-drained soil, but I have found it difficult to keep through the winter. Possibly better potted up and kept in a cold frame during winter. Consistently attracts a wide range of insects including butterflies. I find it difficult to distinguish between <i>A. rugosa</i> and <i>A. foeniculum</i> ; they look similar. Both seem equally attractive to insects.	Lamiaceae
Allium	roseum	Rosy Garlic	Western Europe	Less attractive to insects than the following two kinds of <i>Allium</i> .	Alliaceae
<b>Allium</b>	<b>schoenoprasum</b>	Chives	Western Europe (UK)	Mine is a form raised from seed. Has pink flowers, very attractive to insects. A trouble-free plant for a sunny well-drained soil, but choose a free-flowering stock with showy flowers. Some forms sold as culinary chives are not very floriferous.	Alliaceae
<b>Allium</b>	<b>sphaerocephalon</b>	Bristol Onion, Round-headed Leek	Western Europe (UK)	A speciality of Avon Gorge, Bristol. Widespread elsewhere in W. Europe. Highly attractive to insects, especially bumblebees and butterflies. Easy to grow.	Alliaceae
Anemone	tomentosa 'Robustissima'	Herbaceous anemone	Eastern Asia	The only of the so-called 'Japanese anemones' that seems to consistently attract pollinating insects, mainly bumblebees. Flowers slightly earlier than the other 'Japanese anemones'	Ranunculaceae

<b>Angelica</b>	<b>sylvestris</b>	Wild Angelica	Western Europe (UK).	A biennial, likes a damp soil. Attractive purple-leaved selections (often called 'Vicar's Mead') are also available. Excellent nectar source for a broad range of insects. An essential plant for the pollinator garden. Renew from seed.	Apiaceae.
<b>Anthemis</b>	<b>tinctoria (true species)</b>	Dyers' Chamomile	W. Europe, naturalised in UK	Attracts a broad spectrum of solitary bees and hoverflies. Is only reliably perennial if grown in well-drained soil in full sun. Seeds itself. This is the true species, not a garden hybrid.	Asteraceae
Anthericum	liliago	St Bernard's Lily	W. Europe	From alpine meadows in origin, will grow in grass. Occasionally visited by small mining bees.	Asparagaceae
Anthericum	bovei	St Bernard's Lily	W. Europe	Similar to preceding. Occasionally visited by small mining bees.	Asparagaceae
Antirrhinum	braun-blانqueti	Wild Snapdragon	SW Europe	A wild ancestor of the garden Snapdragon, with cream flowers. Long-tongued bumblebee <i>B. hortorum</i> makes a bee-line for this flower, which is clearly adapted to it. Fascinating. Seeds came from Chiltern seeds of Cumbria.	Plantaginaceae
<b>Aquilegia</b>	<b>vulgaris</b>	Wild Columbine	Western Europe (UK).	This is the wild blue form and its white and pink variants, with single flowers. These (but not the many garden hybrids) are important forage for long-tongued bumblebees.	Ranunculaceae
Arbutus	unedo	Strawberry Tree	W. Europe (inc. Ireland)	Autumn and winter flowering tree that is important forage for bumblebees in the Mediterranean area. In southern England it is now being visited by winter-active bumblebees.	Ericaceae
Asphodeline	lutea	King's spear	W. Europe	Has not proved particularly attractive to insects.	Xanthorrhoeaceae
Aster	trinervis ssp. ageratoides 'Asran'	Michaelmas Daisy	China	A small Aster attracting late solitary bees and Hoverflies.	Asteraceae
<b>Aster</b>	<b>amellus</b>	Starwort, Michaelmas Daisy	Central Europe	Long season, easy to grow in a well drained soil, consistently attracts wide range of insects. Mine is a seed-grown strain, but named cultivars seem just as good. Similar to <i>A. x frikartii</i> 'Monch'.	Asteraceae
<b>Aster</b>	<b>novae-angliae 'Purple Cloud'</b>	New England Aster, Michaelmas Daisy. Syn. <i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i> .	Selection of a wild species from U.S.A	Long season, easy to grow in a damp soil, consistently attracts wide range of insects. Similar in colour to the wild type species. Other forms of <i>Aster novae-angliae</i> may be just as good, but I have not tested them.	Asteraceae
Aster	Pyrenaeus 'Lutetia'	Pyrenean Michaelmas Daisy	Selected from a species from S.W. Europe	Late summer forage nectar source for a range of insects. Not invasive.	Asteraceae
Aubrietia	hybrid.	Aubrietia	S. Europe	Garden hybrid. Attractive to Bee Fly ( <i>Bombylius</i> ) early in season; also occasional butterflies.	Cruciferae

<b>Bupleurum</b>	<b>fruticosum</b>	Shrubby Hare's Ear	SW Europe and Med. Region	Vigorous evergreen shrub, highly attractive to Diptera (flies) and other small insects as a nectar source. Not visited by bees.	Apiaceae.
Calamintha	grandiflora	Large flowered Calamint	Med. Region	Has not yet attracted so many types of insects as C. nepeta and is not so vigorous.	Lamiaceae
<b>Calamintha</b>	<b>nepeta</b>	Lesser Calamint	Southern Europe	Long season, easy to grow in a very sunny place. Has a cloud of tiny flowers. Attractive to a wide range of insects.	Lamiaceae
<b>Campanula</b>	<b>latifolia</b>	Giant Bellflower	Western Europe (UK).	Grows locally in Wye Valley hedgerows and woods. A beautiful tall wild flower. Attracts Bumblebees, Harebell Bee ( <i>Chelostema campanularum</i> ) and other solitary bees. For a herbaceous border or dappled shade. (See my factsheet about 'Solitary Bees in Your garden').	Lamiaceae
<b>Campanula</b>	<b>trachelium</b>	Nettle Leaved Bellflower.	Western Europe (UK).	Wild form. Grows in hedges and woodland edge. As above, attracts Bumblebees, Harebell Bee ( <i>Chelostema campanularum</i> ) and other solitary bees.	Campanulaceae
Cardamine	pratensis	Cuckoo Flower	Western Europe (UK).	Wild form from local area. Does not attract pollinators but is a potential caterpillar food plant for Orange Tip butterfly.	Brassicaceae
Ceanothus	'Gloire de versailles'		Garden hybrid of species from N. America	Attractive mainly to hoverflies and other very small flies.	Rhamnaceae
Centaurea	jacea	Knapweed	Continental Europe	Very similar to C. nigra with which it hybridises.	Asteraceae
Centaurea	montana	Mountain cornflower	Continental Europe	Perennial, attractive to a range of bumblebees and solitary bees.	Asteraceae
<b>Centaurea</b>	<b>nigra (in a broad sense)</b>	<b>Black Knapweed, Hardheads</b>	Western Europe (UK).	I grow several accessions from different parts of the UK, different in appearance and flowering at different times of the season between June and September. Attracts a wide range of insects. An essential plant for the pollinator garden, can either be grown as a herbaceous perennial or in long grass and mown in autumn/winter.	Asteraceae
<b>Centaurea</b>	<b>scabiosa</b>	<b>Greater Knapweed</b>	Western Europe (UK).	Larger than C. nigra. Needs staking and tends to be over-vigorous for a garden border. Showy flowers. Attracts wide range of insects.	Asteraceae
Cirsium	'Mount Etna'	Mt Etna Thistle	Sicily	Species name unknown, sold under this name in the nursery trade. Attracts a wide range of insects and is not weedy nor invasive.	Asteraceae
Clematis	heracleifolia 'Wyevale'	-	China	Herbaceous perennial, attractive to moths.	Ranunculaceae
Clematis	cirrrosa	-	S. Europe	Climber, winter flowering.	Ranunculaceae
Clematis	flammula	Virgin's Bower	S. Europe	Small-flowered climber. Still assessing it.	Ranunculaceae
Clematis	'Triternarta Marginata'	-	Garden hybrid of wild species from S. Europe	Small-flowered climber. Still assessing it.	Ranunculaceae

Clematis	alpina		S. Europe	Small-flowered climber. Nodding blue flower similar to that of an Aquilegia, attracts bumblebees.	Ranunculaceae
Cornus	sanguinea 'Midwinter Fire'	Dogwood	Western Europe (UK).	Cultivar of wild Dogwood with orange winter stems. Very striking. Mainly grown for ornament. Some insect visitors to flowers.	Cornaceae
Cotinus	coggyria 'Grace'	Eurasian Smoke Tree	Southern Europe eastwards to China	Mainly grown for ornamental foliage. Has clouds of tiny flowers which are sometimes visited by bumblebees.	Anacardiaceae
Crataegus	laevigata 'Crimson Cloud'	Red flowered Hawthorn	Western Europe (UK).	Red-flowered Hawthorn with single flowers. Ornamental but very uncommon. Is visited to a certain extent by the Diptera which pollinate wild Hawthorns, and also by Bumblebees, and produces red berries in winter. A good substitute for the double-flowered red Hawthorn commonly grown in gardens, which is of no value to pollinators.	Rosaceae
Dianthus	carthusianorum	Carthusian pink.	Western Europe	Grows in hay meadows in France and Spain. Said to be attractive to butterflies. Not very vigorous nor long-lived.	Caryophyllaceae
Dianthus	deltoides	Maiden pink	Western Europe (UK).	Grows in sandy soil. Not observed many insect visitors as yet.	Caryophyllaceae
Dianthus	gratianopolitanus	Cheddar pink.	Western Europe (UK).	Grows well on walls. Not observed many insect visitors as yet.	Caryophyllaceae
<b>Digitalis</b>	<b>ferruginea</b>	Rusty foxglove	SW Europe	Perennial with glossy leaves and tall spikes of very small brownish-cream flowers. Very striking. Likes a sunny position and well-drained soil. Attractive to small bumblebees such as <i>B. pascuorum</i> workers, and solitary bees such as <i>Anthidium manicatum</i> .	Plantaginaceae
<b>Digitalis</b>	<b>grandiflora</b>	Large yellow foxglove	NW Europe	Woodland-edge perennial with spikes of large soft yellow flowers which attract long-tongued bumblebees such as <i>B. hortorum</i> . A sound perennial, unlike the purple foxglove.	Plantaginaceae
<b>Digitalis</b>	<b>purpurea</b>	Purple foxglove	NW Europe (UK)	Woodland-edge biennial with spikes of large purple or white flowers which attract long-tongued bumblebees such as <i>B. hortorum</i> .	Plantaginaceae
<b>Digitalis</b>	<b>lutea</b>	Straw Foxglove	NW Europe	Woodland-edge perennial with spikes of small soft yellow flowers which attract solitary bees and small bumblebees such as <i>B. pascuorum</i> . A perennial.	Plantaginaceae
Dipsacus	fullonum	teasel	NW Europe (UK)	Good forage for insects, as well as producing those spiny winter seedhead that attract Goldfinches. Seeds itself copiously everywhere and needs careful management, but well worth growing. A tall biennial.	Caprifoliaceae

<b>Echinops</b>	<b>'Nivalis'</b>	Globe thistle	Garden hybrid from wild species found in E. and central Europe	A white flowered cultivar. Tall plant that attracts wide range of insects, including butterflies. This form is vigorous and disease-free with off-white flowers. Recommended. Needs staking. I find some of the smaller Echinops ritro cultivars are prone to diseases, but this one is very healthy.	Asteraceae
<b>Echium</b>	<b>vulgare</b>	Viper's Bugloss	Western Europe (UK).	Blue flowered large biennial, a bit spiny to touch. Loved by all kinds of bees and Lepidoptera, but needs careful management in a garden situation. Needs a sunny site and well-drained poor soil. Sandy, stony or gravelly sites perfect. Grows over-large in fertile soils. Seeds itself and liable to take over if not strictly controlled. Remove plant after flowering and before it sets most of its seed. Just keep a few self-sown young plants each year and weed the rest out.	Boraginaceae
Erica	carnea 'rosantha'	Winter Flowering Heather	Europe (Alps)	Useful very early nectar source for any insects flying in Feb-March. Oldest E. carnea cultivars are closest to wild forms and most likely to be good nectar sources. (see Heather Society website for cultivar dates)	Ericaceae
Erica	griffithsii 'Heaven Scent'	Shrubby heather	A garden hybrid believed to be derived from southern European species	Attractive to butterflies.	Ericaceae
Erica	vagans	Cornish Heath	Cornwall, Ireland, Iberian peninsula	A selection from the wild Cornish Heath. Attractive to bumblebees in late summer. Forms a low bush in a sunny position	Ericaceae
<b>Eryngium</b>	<b>planum</b>	Plains Eryngo	North-central Europe	Needs dry position, has a rosette of green leaves and looks like a grassland flower; possibly could grow in grass. Attracts small insects such as solitary bees and hoverflies.	Apiaceae.
<b>Eryngium</b>	<b>variifolium</b>	Moroccan sea holly	Morocco	Needs dry sunny position. Attracts small insects such as solitary bees and hoverflies.	Apiaceae
<b>Eryngium</b>	<b>X zabelii 'Big Blue'</b>		Central and southern Europe	A selection from Eryngium x zabelii (E. bourgatii x E. alpinum) from central and S. Europe. Needs dry sunny position. Attracts small insects such as solitary bees and hoverflies.	Apiaceae
Eryngium	yuccifolium	Rattlesnake Master	Western USA	Has a reputation of attracting large numbers of small pollinators, mainly solitary bees and hoverflies. As yet mine is a young plant.	Apiaceae.
<b>Eupatorium</b>	<b>purpureum 'Little Red'</b>	Joe Pye Weed	USA	Tall perennial very close to our 'Hemp Agrimony' but bigger and more purple. Although planted to attract butterflies, I also find this is very attractive to bumblebees in late summer. A large herbaceous perennial that needs space.	Asteraceae

Eupatorium	ligustrinum	syn. Ageratina ligustrina	Mexico	Small evergreen shrub with clusters of fluffy white flowers in late summer and autumn that are highly attractive to a range of insects. Not fully hardy and needs protection in very cold weather, or grow in a large pot and bring indoors in winter.	Asteraceae
Euphorbia	hyberna	Irish spurge	SW England, Ireland, France	A lovely woodland edge perennial, rarely grown in gardens. Acid yellow flowers last for months. Gently seeds itself but not weedy. Attracts many Diptera (flies/hoverflies). NB Euphorbias have irritant sap, wear gloves when cutting back.	Euphorbiaceae
Ferula	tingitanus 'Cedric Morris'	Giant Fennel	SW Europe	Not yet flowered. A tall perennial similar to Fennel, should attract Diptera when it flowers.	Apiaceae.
Filipendula	vulgaris	Dropwort	Eurasia (UK)	A plant of dry pasture and dry meadows. Does not appear to attract any insects.	Rosaceae
<b>Foeniculum</b>	<b>vulgare Bronze Form</b>	Fennel	S. Europe	A culinary herb. Beautiful bronze foliage. Yellow umbellifer flowers attract Diptera (flies/hoverflies) and other small pollinators such as soldier beetles.	Apiaceae.
<b>Gaillardia</b>	<b>aristata (single-flowered garden strain)</b>	Blanket Flower	USA	This is raised from a commercial seed-strain. Has proved a good perennial and is vigorous in a sunny situation in a well-drained soil. Each plant lasts about three years so gather seed each year and raise a few replacements. A real favourite of bumblebees and other insects, which are attracted to the purplish central florets in the flower. Gives a lot of colour to the border with striking red and yellow flowers for many months.	Asteraceae
Galium	mollugo	Hedge Bedstraw	Western Europe (UK).	A plant of dry pasture and dry meadows, and hedgerows. Mainly known as a nectar source for some moths. I have observed Hummingbird Hawkmoth visiting it . Not visited by bees.	Rubiaceae
Galium	verum	Lady's Bedstraw	Western Europe (UK).	A plant of dry pasture and dry meadows. Very attractive. Unclear what insects it attracts if any.	Rubiaceae
Genista	fragrans	Sweet Broom, Easter Broom	Origin unclear, possibly a hybrid of S. European Species.	Syn. Cytisus x racemosus, Cytisus x spachianus. Attracts bumblebees.	Fabaceae
Genista	tinctoria	Dyer's Greenweed (wild type)	Western Europe (UK).	This form is of UK wild origin from hay meadows, it is low-growing, almost herbaceous, and can be cut back annually. Visited by bumblebees such a B. pascuorum, and small solitary bees. Has an explosive pollen ejecting mechanism similar to that of broom. [The type in the nursery trade tends to be a shrub, taller and I'm not sure of its value to insects.]	Fabaceae
Geranium	dalmaticum	Cranesbill	SE Europe	Recommended for bumblebees, but so far I have not noticed any visiting it all, over several years.	Geraniaceae

Geranium	phaeum album	Dusky cranesbill	W. Europe	A white flowered seedling. Popular with bumblebees, which 'buzz pollinate' this species. G. phaeum will naturalise in woodland and can become invasive. Take care in woodland settings. Safest in a garden border where it cannot escape.	Geraniaceae
Geranium	phaeum 'Lily Lovell'	Dusky cranesbill	W. Europe	This form has dark blue flowers and resembles the wild form found in France. Other comments as above.	Geraniaceae
Geranium	phaeum 'Samobor'	Dusky cranesbill	W. Europe	This form from the Balkans has dark brownish flowers and patterned leaves. Other comments as above.	Geraniaceae
Geranium	pratense	Meadow Cranesbill	Western Europe (UK).	Common in hedgerows and hay meadows in southern Britain. A good garden plant but need to control its seeding. Can be grown in grass. Visited by bumblebees.	Geraniaceae
Geranium	'Rozanne'	Cranesbill	A modern horticultural hybrid from European species.	Attractive to insects.	Geraniaceae
Geranium	sanguineum	Bloody cranesbill	Western Europe (UK).	Low growing perennial with purple-red flowers. Found locally on limestone. Occasionally visited by bumblebees.	Geraniaceae
Geranium	sylvaticum	Wood cranesbill	Western Europe (UK).	Perennial with purple-blue flowers. Found in northern Britain on limestone. Occasionally visited by bumblebees.	Geraniaceae
Geum	rivale	Water Avens	Western Europe (UK).	Small perennial needing a very damp situation. Likes heavy soils. Nodding flowers of pale pink or white are visited by bumblebees early in the season.	Rosaceae
Glechoma	hederacea, (blue and pink flowered forms)	Ground Ivy	Western Europe (UK).	A ground cover plant for dry situations and poor soil or gravel. Gets weedy in damp situations or rich soil and should be cut back or removed if it becomes too rampant. Has typical labiate flowers which are visited by small bumblebees and other small bees.	Lamiaceae
<b>Hebe</b>	<b>'Great Orme'</b>	Shrubby Veronica	Garden hybrid of wild species from New Zealand	Not as vigorous as some other Hebes, has distinctive spikes of two-tone pink flowers in late summer. A medium size evergreen shrub. Extremely attractive to a wide range of insects including butterflies, moths, solitary bees and hoverflies.	Plantaginaceae
Hebe	'Hidcote'	Shrubby Veronica	Garden hybrid of wild species from New Zealand	Nomenclature of Hebes is muddled in the trade and this may be mis-named. The plant that I grow is reasonably attractive to insects.	Plantaginaceae
Hebe	'Midsummer Beauty'	Shrubby Veronica	Garden hybrid of wild species from New Zealand	Nomenclature of Hebes is muddled in the trade and this may be mis-named. The plant that I grow is reasonably attractive to insects.	Plantaginaceae
Helianthemum	nummularium	Wild Rock Rose	Western Europe (UK).	Small-leaved and small-flowered form of wild UK provenance. Attractive to range of bees, but next Helianthemum is better.	Cistaceae



Helianthemum	probably the cultivar 'St John's College Yellow'.	Rock Rose	Cultivar derived from wild species of Europe (UK) origin.	Similar to H. nummularium but bigger leaves and flowers, more vigorous and longer-flowering. A good pollen source for all kinds of bees.	Cistaceae
Helianthus	decapetalus 'Maximus'	Perennial sunflower	Cultivar derived from a wild species from USA.	Tall and vigorous with striking bright yellow daisies faintly scented of chocolate. Needs good soil, where it will grow almost 2 metres high. Looks wonderful behind blue or purple Aster novae-angliae. Attractive to late summer bumblebees and hoverflies. One of the classier yellow perennial daisies. Has running roots and is slightly invasive. Has to be managed by thinning out crowns every winter.	Asteraceae
<b>Helianthus</b>	<b>x laetifolius 'Lemon Queen'</b>	Perennial sunflower	Selection from a naturally occurring hybrid between two wild species from the USA and Canada.	Tall and vigorous with clouds of smallish pale yellow sunflowers. Very attractive to a broad spectrum of insects over many weeks in late summer. Needs space and a good soil. A beautiful garden plant, well worth growing. Vigorous but not invasive.	Asteraceae
Helichrysum	italicum 'Dartington'	Curry plant	S. Europe	Selection of of Curry Plant. The yellow flowers are visited by small solitary bees (mainly <i>Colletes</i> ).	Asteraceae
<b>Helleborus</b>	<b>foetidus</b>	Stinking hellebore	Western Europe (UK).	Early nectar source for bumblebees in Feb and March. NB All hellebores are poisonous, wear gloves when cutting back.	Ranunculaceae
Helleborus	hybridus types	Hellebores	Hybrids of wild species from Southern Europe	Contain flat nectaries under the tepals which bumblebees can reach; however in my experience the bees do not very often visit these, unlike H. foetidus which is popular with bumblebees.	Ranunculaceae
Hemerocallis	lilio-asphodelus	Yellow day lily	From Eastern Asia	Mainly grown for ornament . Occasionally visited by bumblebees but they struggle with the flower shape.	Xanthorrhoeaceae
Hesperis	matronalis	Dames violet, Sweet Rocket	Western Europe	Often recommended as a butterfly flower, this year I observed moths visiting it. Does not attract bees.	Cruciferae
Hieraceum	maculatum	Spotted Hawkweed	Western Europe (UK).	Leaves blotched with dark brown make this more ornamental and garden-worthy than many of its relatives. Forage source for small solitary bees early in the season. Can be established in a lawn.	Asteraceae
Hypericum	tetrapterum	Square-stemmed St Johns Wort	Western Europe (UK).	Hypericums are a mixed bag and most of the commonly grown garden forms seem to attract no insects. This small herbaceous wild flower attracts smaller bees. It is less invasive than the similar H. perforatum, which is too weedy for gardens.	Hypericaceae
Inula	hookeri	-	Himalayas	Large yellow daisies in early to mid summer, attractive to bees, butterflies and pollen beetles. Plant has large basal leaves.	Asteraceae

Inula	racemosa	-	Caucasus	Large yellow daisies in early to mid summer, attractive to bees butterflies and pollen beetles. Plant has large basal leaves. A magnificent tall perennial that needs lots of space and can be used as a focal point. Likes damp and heavy soil. Has a huge root and is difficult to dig out once established, so place carefully. Not invasive. I got this as a replacement for the even larger I. magnifica, which was too large for the garden.	Asteraceae
Iris	sibirica 'Perry's Blue'	Siberian Iris	Selection of a species found wild across Eurasia	Some interest from insects.	Iridaceae
Iris	sibirica white seedling	Siberian Iris	Selection of a species found wild across Eurasia	White form grown from seed. Some interest from insects.	Iridaceae
Iris	x robusta 'Gerald Derby'		Garden hybrid of two species from USA	Prefers damp soil. Good deep red emerging foliage. Blue flowers are visited by bumblebees.	Iridaceae
Iris	pseudacorus 'Variegata'	Yellow flag	Variegated selection of a species found wild across Eurasia (UK)	Prefers damp soil or water. Emerging foliage coloured cream. Yellow flowers are visited by bumblebees. A very beautiful plant.	Iridaceae
Jasminum	officinale	White Jasmine	Central Asia	Grown primarily for ornament and its scent. Is occasionally visited by long-tongued bumblebees.	Oleaceae
Knautia	arvensis	Field scabious	Western Europe (UK).	Attractive to a wide range of insects. Will grow in long grass.	Caprifoliaceae
<b>Knautia</b>	<b>macedonia</b>	Red scabious	Southern Europe	Attractive to a wide range of insects. Will grow in long grass and seeds itself into lawns.	Caprifoliaceae
Lactuca	perennis	Blue Lettuce	Western Europe		Asteraceae
Lamium	orvala	Balkan Dead Nettle	S. Europe	Classy relative of Dead Nettle for dappled shade, Flowers adapted to long-tongued bees. Fascinating to watch bees enter the flowers.	Lamiaceae
Lathyrus	pratensis	Meadow Vetchling	Eurasia (UK)	Grows in long grass, mown in autumn and winter. Too vigorous for a flowerbed. Attracts small solitary bees and some bumblebees.	Fabaceae
<b>Lavandula</b>	<b>x intermedia 'Edelweiss'</b>	English Lavender	Hybrids derived from wild species originally from S. Europe	Needs a dry sunny situation. The 'intermedia' group of Lavenders make large tall plants and are the most attractive to insects.	Lamiaceae
<b>Lavandula</b>	<b>x intermedia 'Grosso'</b>	English Lavender	As previous	As previous. In scientific tests this cultivar produced the most nectar.	Lamiaceae
<b>Lavandula</b>	<b>x intermedia 'Lullingstone Castle'</b>	English Lavender	As previous	As previous	Lamiaceae

<b>Lavandula</b>	<b>x intermedia 'Seal'</b>	English Lavender	As previous	As previous	Lamiaceae
<b>Leontodon</b>	<b>rigens</b>	Hawkbit	Azores	Excellent forage for small solitary bees, this attractive plant is a good flower border substitute for the wild Hawkweeds and Hawkbits that are best grown in a lawn. Seems fully hardy even though from the Azores. Seeds itself mildly but not invasive.	Asteraceae
Ligusticum	scoticum	Sea lovage	Western Europe (UK).	A small herb. Does not seem to attract any insects..	Apiaceae.
Lilium	martagon	Turks cap Lily	Western Europe (UK).	The only wild British population grows not far from here. Flower form suggests it should be visited by Lepidoptera although I have not yet recorded this.	Liliaceae
<b>Linaria</b>	<b>purpurea (also pink form)</b>	Purple Toadflax	S. Europe	Unassuming plant that is attractive to bumblebees	Plantaginaceae
Lobelia	siphilitca	Great Blue Lobelia	USA	Attracts late season bumble bees	Campanulaceae
Lonicera	X americana (seedling)	Honeysuckle	Hybrid between W. European species. Despite the name it is not from America.	This is a seedling raised from the 'americana' hybrid, which is a cross between two wild honeysuckles (L. periclymenum and L. etrusca). It is strongly scented all day, and attracts a lot of bumblebees despite the long flower tube. A vigorous and attractive plant, disease-free.	Caprifoliaceae
Lonicera	periclymenum (various cultivars)	Honeysuckle	Western Europe (UK).	Supposedly visited by moths but I have yet to observe this. Occasionally B. hortorum visits. More bees visit the previous type.	Caprifoliaceae
Lonicera	fragrantissima	Winter flowering honeysuckle	China	This is a shrub with sweetly scented white flowers in January and February. I grow this because of my interest in winter-active bumblebees, which are attracted to this flower.	Caprifoliaceae
<b>Lotus</b>	<b>corniculatus</b>	Bird's Foot trefoil	Western Europe (UK).	Can be grown in gravel, or in a lawn and mown after it flowers; or in a dry stone wall. Needs poor soil and benefits from regular cutting back after flowering is over. Essential flower for many insects, especially bumblebees and various solitary bees.	Fabaceae
Lotus	hirsutus	Dorycnium	S. Europe, Med. region	Silvery evergreen sub-shrub for hot dry situation with creamy-pink flowers. Closely related to Birds Foot Trefoil it is popular with Bombus pascuorum and some other bumblebees, and I have observed moths visiting it at dusk. The pinky-white flowers suggest it is a 'moth plant'.	Fabaceae
Lysimachia	nemorum	Yellow Pimpernel	Western Europe (UK).	Creeping plant that needs a damp soil. I have never seen any insect visit this flower!	Myrsinaceae
Lysimachia	nummularia	Creeping Jenny	Western Europe (UK).	Needs a damp soil. I have never seen any insect visit this flower either!	Myrsinaceae
<b>Lythrum</b>	<b>salicaria</b>	Purple Loosestrife	Western Europe (UK).	Needs a damp soil. An excellent garden plant attracting plenty of insects.	Lythraceae

Matthiola	incana	Hoary Stock (type species)	Britain and France	Biennial. Needs a well drained soil in a sunny position. Flowers very fragrant. I have not seen any insects visit this flower. Tends to flower early in summer when not many moths or butterflies around.	Cruciferae
Meconopsis	cambrica	Welsh Poppy	Western Europe (UK).	Used as a pollen source by bumblebees. A common cottage garden flower that grows wild in mountainous areas. Will grow in semi-shade.	Papaveraceae
Melittis	melissophyllum	Bastard Balm	Western Europe (UK).	Attractive perennial hedgerow flower that attracts bumblebees. Prefer semi-shade.	Lamiaceae
Melittis	melissophyllum 'Royal Velvet'	Bastard Balm	Western Europe (UK).	As above. This is just a selected colour.	Lamiaceae
Mentha	longifolia 'Buddleia Mint' group	Buddleia mint	Europe	Mints are so invasive they are best grown in containers. I grow several for culinary purposes, good for insects if left to flower. This one is exceptionally attractive to insects. Nomenclature and identification of mints is confused.	Lamiaceae
Myrrhis	odorata	Sweet Cicely	Western Europe (UK).	Easy to grow perennial for half shade. So far I have observed few insect visitors.	Apiaceae.
Myrtus	communis	Myrtle	South Europe	An evergreen shrub with fragrant foliage. Dislikes severe cold. Lots of white fluffy flowers in late summer. When I lived in London these were popular with <i>Bombus terrestris</i> . Here in Chepstow the bumblebees seem to have other attractions, and pay little attention to the Myrtles.	Myrtaceae
<b>Nectaroscordon</b>	<b>siculum</b>		South Europe	A bulbous plant, easy to grow in an open sunny position. Attracts bumblebees and social wasps	Alliaceae
Nepeta	grandiflora 'Dawn to Dusk'	Caucasus Catmint	Cultivar derived from a wild sp. from the Caucasus	My plant still not big enough to assess properly, but seems popular with bumblebees. More observation next year.	Lamiaceae
<b>Nepeta</b>	<b>sibirica</b>	Siberian Catmint	Siberia	Very popular with bumblebees and other bees. A robust catmint with a long flowering season. Local cats seem to leave it alone.	Lamiaceae
Nepeta	subsessilis	Japanese Catmint	Japan	From shady hillsides, needs different conditions to the other Nepetas. My plants still not big enough to assess properly. More observation next year.	Lamiaceae
Nicotiana	alata (syn. affinis)	Sweet Tobacco	Brazil and Argentina.	An annual or short lived perennial. Sweetly scented in the evening. In its homeland it attracts long-tongued moths of the family Sphingidae. No resident species of moth in Britain have a tongue long enough to access its nectar but the summer migrant the spectacular <i>Convolvulus Hawkmoth</i> is strongly attracted to this flower. It is worth growing for that reason in case the <i>Convolvulus Hawkmoth</i> turns up.	Solanaceae
Ocimum	vulgare	Wild Basil	Western Europe (UK).	(Syn. <i>Clinopodium vulgare</i> ). Attracts a range of small insects. Can be grown in grass and in meadow situations. More observation next year.	Lamiaceae

Oenothera	sp.	Evening Primrose	Originally from N. America, has evolved into new species in Europe since introduction.	A tall biennial, said to attract moths. Too invasive for a small garden. I grow one plant per season and any other seedlings are weeded out. I remove flower heads before most seeds have been set.	Onagraceae
Onobrychis	viciifolia	Sainfoin	Western Europe (UK).	A second accession, this one a wild type that grows on chalk downland. Not yet flowered.	Fabaceae
<b>Origanum</b>	<b>vulgare yellow leaved</b>	Wild Marjoram	Europe (UK)	A yellow-leaved form. Good in dry sunny sites. Spreads at the roots but not invasively and makes a nice winter ground cover when the basal leaves become more strongly coloured. Very attractive to bees of all sorts and butterflies. Self sown seedlings often green leaved.	Lamiaceae
Paeonia	peregrina	Wild Paeony	Southern Europe	A single flowered paeony, thick boss of yellow stamens is occasionally visited by bumble bees, but not one of their favourite flowers.	Paeoniaceae
<b>Penstemon</b>	<b>heterophyllus</b>	Foothill Penstemon	California Coast Range mountains	Excellent garden plant, small spreading evergreen for a dry very sunny position in poor sandy soil where it is covered in blue-mauve flowers for months. Very attractive to every kind of bee.	Plantaginaceae
Phlomis	fruticosa		S. Europe	A yellow Phlomis (not sure of the name) that is visited by B. hortorum	Lamiaceae
Phlomis	russelliana	Turkish Sage	Turkey		Lamiaceae
Phuopsis	stylosa		Eastern Europe	Vigorous ground cover plant for hot dry situation or gravel. Pink flowers occasionally attract butterflies and some bees. This plant can be over-vigorous for a small garden.	Rubiaceae
Pimpinella	saxifraga	Burnet saxifrage	Western Europe (UK).	Despite the name it is an Umbellifer. (Nothing to do with Saxifrages). Attracts small solitary bees and hoverflies. Ornamental but has proved very invasive from self-set seed and seed heads need removing to prevent invasion of seedlings.	Apiaceae.
Pimpinella	major rosea	Greater Burnet Saxifrage	Western Europe (UK).	Unlike the previous this does not set seed, but it hardly seems to attract any pollinators.	Apiaceae.
Potentilla	recta		Western Europe (UK).	Mainly attracts small solitary bees	Rosaceae
Primula	elatior	Oxlip	Western Europe (UK).	Not a great deal of insect interest. Main visitor to primulas that I have observed is the Bee Fly (Bombylius).	Primulaceae
Primula	Veris, and veris 'Sunset Shades'	Cowslip	Western Europe (UK).	Visited by the occasional bumblebee, solitary bee or bee fly.	Primulaceae
Primula	acaulis (early white form)	Primrose	Western Europe (UK).	White flowered cultivar of wild flower, comments as previous.	Primulaceae

Prostanthera	cuneata	Mint Bush	Australia	This little mint-scented evergreen bush is visited by bumblebees.	Lamiaceae
Pulicaria	dysentaria	Yellow Fleabane	Western Europe (UK).	Needs damp soil. Not a great deal insect interest, although often recommended. Possibly I need a larger clump.	Asteraceae
<b>Pulmonaria</b>	<b>officinalis</b>	Lungwort	W. Europe.	Strongly attractive to early bumblebees and to Anthophora plumipes. Important early pollen and nectar source.	Lamiaceae
Pulsatilla	vulgaris	Pasque Flower	Western Europe (UK).	Rarely observe any insects visiting so far, possibly because I am not very good at growing this plant. It seems very prone to drought.	Ranunculaceae
<b>Ranunculus</b>	<b>acris</b>	Meadow Buttercup	Western Europe (UK).	This (and R. bulbosus) are the best of the wild Buttercups for a garden - not weedy, upright, and has good foliage. Can grow in grass or in a border. Early pollen source, attracts the solitary bee <i>Chelostoma florissomne</i> .	Ranunculaceae
Ranunculus	ficaria 'Brazen Hussy'	Celandine	Western Europe (UK).	A selection of common Celandine with bronze leaves. Needs a damp heavy soil. Grew really well for me in London but struggles here. - I rarely see insects visiting Celandines, which puzzles me. Some other gardeners report more insect visiting their celandines.	Ranunculaceae
Reseda	luteola	Dyer's Weld	Eurasia (UK)	A biennial flower of stony wasteland, the thin green flower spikes attract the solitary 'Mask Bee' or 'White Faced Bee' <i>Hylaeus signatus</i> . Worth growing for this reason. Other species of Reseda also attract this bee. (See my factsheet about 'solitary Bees in Your garden').	Resedaceae
<b>Ribes</b>	<b>laurifolium</b>	Laurel-leaved Currant	China	Low evergreen shrub, with strings of greeny-white small flowers in February. Very good early forage for bees. I find this plant's leaves bleach in full sun and I grow it in partial shade.	Grossulariaceae
<b>Rosmarinus</b>	<b>officinalis</b>	Blue flowered Rosemary	S. Europe	Excellent forage for early bees.	Lamiaceae
<b>Rosmarinus</b>	<b>officinalis var. albiflorus</b>	White flowered Rosemary	S. Europe	Excellent forage for early bees.	Lamiaceae
Rosmarinus	Officinalis 'Corsican Pink'	Mauve flowered Rosemary	S. Europe	Excellent forage for early bees. This form is extremely early flowering.	Lamiaceae
Rosmarinus	officinalis var. albiflorus 'Lady in White'	Rosemary	Southern Europe	Excellent forage for early bees.	
Rosmarinus	Officinalis 'Capri'	trailing Rosemary	S. Europe	Excellent forage for early bees. This form is prostrate.	Lamiaceae
<b>Salvia</b>	<b>nemorosa 'Caradonna'</b>	Woodland Sage, Balkan Clary	Cultivar selected from a wild sp. from Central and Eastern Europe	S. nemorosa and related S. sylvestris are excellent forage plants for many insects.	Lamiaceae

<b>Salvia</b>	<b>nemorosa 'Lubeca'</b>	Woodland Sage, Balkan Clary	Cultivar selected from a wild sp. from Central and Eastern Europe	Really popular with bumblebees and small solitaires. A cultivar close to the well known 'East Friesland' but seems to have a longer flowering season, carrying on into September in this garden. Recommended.	Lamiaceae
Salvia	officinalis	Culinary sage	S. Europe, Med. region	Flowers popular with bumblebees. Cultivars vary. This one has good blue flowers, but not as good as 'Spanish Sage'.	Lamiaceae
<b>Salvia</b>	<b>officinalis 'Greek sage'</b>	Greek Sage	S. Europe, Med. region	Identity unclear, probably a form of <i>S. officinalis</i> , but much more floriferous and early flowering, a magnet for insects.	Lamiaceae
Salvia	pratensis	Meadow Clary	Western Europe (UK).	Attracts bumblebees. A hay meadow plant in central Europe. Popular with slugs and snails unfortunately.	Lamiaceae
<b>Scabiosa</b>	<b>columbaria</b>	Small Scabious	Western Europe (UK) and Med. region.	Likes dry sunny situation, will grow in grass or hay meadow as well as in flower bed. Very prolific in flower, visited by broad range of insects. Recommended	Dipsacaceae
<b>Scabiosa</b>	<b>columbaria ssp. ochroleuca</b>	Yellow Small Scabious	South Eastern Europe	Cream-flowered form of Small Scabious. Same comments apply. Very attractive garden plant with a long flowering season. Tends to be a short lived perennial in the garden so spread the seed around to make sure that enough self-sown seedlings come up to replace older plants.	Dipsacaceae
Sedum	forsteranum		Western Europe (UK)	Grows wild locally in Wye Valley on stony banks. Not a great deal of insect visitors.	Crassulaceae
Sedum	rupestre		W. Europe.	The form that I grow attracts bumblebees.	Crassulaceae
Sedum	spectabile		Japan	For some reason I never find this easy to grow. It attracts slugs, and seems to want a damper and richer soil than the other Sedums. The flower shape shows that it is a typical nectar plant for butterflies, unlike the other Sedums. Not much insect interest in the garden so far but that is probably my fault for growing poor specimens.	Crassulaceae
Sedum	telephium ssp. telephium		Western Europe (UK)	Occasional visits by a variety of insects, mainly bees.	Crassulaceae
Sedum	'Purple Emperor'		Garden form of <i>S. telephium</i> group	Occasional visits by a variety of insects, mainly bees.	Crassulaceae
Sedum	'Strawberries and Cream'		Garden form of <i>S. telephium</i> group	Occasional visits by a variety of insects, mainly bees.	Crassulaceae
Silene	vulgaris	Bladder Campion	Western Europe (UK).	Many similar Silenes are 'moth plants'. I notice this is also used as a nectar source by long-tongued bumblebees. It can be moderately rampant in a garden situation and needs a very poor soil and sunny position. Keep under control by cutting back before it sheds seeds.	Caryophyllaceae

Solidago	rugosa 'Fireworks'	Canadian Goldenrod	Hybrid of N. American species.	Most N. American Golden Rods are weedy and invasive and unsuitable for gardens. This one is small and does not seem to set viable seed or have running roots. Does not seem to receive a great deal of insect visitors.	Asteraceae
Solidago	virgaurea	Wild Goldenrod	Western Europe (UK).	Grows locally on stony banks. Attracts small solitary bees and bumblebees. Good plant to extend the season for small solitaries that like small yellow composite flowers. I recommend this in preference to the Canadian goldenrods.	Asteraceae
<b>Stachys</b>	<b>byzantina</b>	Lamb's Ear	South Eastern Europe	A magnet for the entertaining Wool Carder Bee ( <i>Anthidium manicatum</i> ). Plant it near a seat so you can watch the male bees patrolling their territories and attacking intruder insects. Also used as forage by bumblebees and other insects. Be sure to get a flowering clone - most of those sold in garden centres are non-flowering forms. (See my factsheet about 'Solitary Bees in Your garden').	Lamiaceae
Stachys	officinalis	Betony	Western Europe (UK).	A very attractive wildflower when it grows in broad swathes of purple on hedge banks besides roads. Very easy to grow and not invasive. Mainly visited by bumblebees and some solitary bees.	Lamiaceae
Stachys	sylvatica	Hedge Woundwort	Western Europe (UK).	Visited by a range of wild bees; a good forage source. Has running roots and can soon take over. - so needs regular control. I pull out most of its running roots through the season. Weedy and invasive but worth growing if you have the time to control it.	Lamiaceae
<b>Succisia</b>	<b>pratensis</b>	Devil's Bit scabious	Western Europe (UK).	Visited by a range of insects; an excellent late summer forage source. Not invasive. Can be easily naturalised in a starved lawn.	Caprifoliaceae
<b>Symphytum</b>	<b>'Hidcote Blue'</b>	Early Comfrey	A garden hybrid of two European species	Slowly spreading ground cover, unlike many other Comfrees does not have deep tap-root, so is easy to control. Very good early forage for bumblebees and a magnet for <i>Anthophora plumipes</i> . (See my factsheet about 'Solitary Bees in Your garden'). Take care if planting near woodland; this has the potential to be a garden escape. It is a fertile hybrid and can reproduce from seed.	Boraginaceae
Symphytum	azureum	Azure comfrey	Eastern Europe	Used by bumblebees but not as attractive to them as 'Hidcote Blue'. This one has more of a tap root. I control it carefully.	Boraginaceae
Tanacetum	Vulgare 'Isla Gold'	Tansy	Western Europe (UK).	This is a selection of the wild Tansy with golden foliage. Flowers are identical to the green-leaved forms. A good forage source for a variety of small solitary bees.	Asteraceae
<b>Teucrium</b>	<b>chamaedrys</b>	Wall Germander	Western Europe (UK).	A well-known forage source for bumblebees.	Lamiaceae
Teucrium	hircanum	Caucasian Germander	Caucasus	Spikes of tiny flowers attract short-tongued bees.	Lamiaceae



Thalictrum	flavum	Common Meadow Rue	Western Europe (UK).	Tall perennial. In the wild grows in wet meadows. Fluffy golden flower heads suggest a wind-pollinated flower, but I have often observed bumblebees criss-crossing the flowers gathering pollen on their coats. Makes a good garden plant but needs staking as it flops in windy weather.	Ranunculaceae
<b>Thymus</b>	<b>pulegiodes</b>	Round-leaved Creeping Thyme	Western Europe (UK).	This large leaved creeping Thyme will grow in sparse grass. Late flowering. Attractive to all kinds of bees. More persistent than other thymes in damp or grassy conditions.	Lamiaceae
<b>Thymus</b>	<b>'Jekka's Thyme'</b>	Creeping Thyme	Hybrid of species of European origin.	Tough evergreen creeping thyme, more robust than most, Very early flowering. Attractive to all kinds of bees.	Lamiaceae
<b>Thymus</b>	<b>herba barona</b>	Caraway scented thyme.	Southern Europe	Vigorous creeping thyme, small leaves, suitable for walls, gravel etc. Lots of small flowers mid-season. Attractive to all kinds of bees.	Lamiaceae
Trifolium	purpureum	Red clover	Western Europe (UK).	Essential forage plant for bumblebees. Grows in long grass, mown throughout autumn and winter. Needs poor soil. Too vigorous for a flower bed.	Fabaceae
Valeriana	officinalis	White Valerian	Western Europe (UK).	I have noticed hardly any insects visiting my plant, although it is sometimes recommended for butterflies and moths. Possibly I need to grow a much larger group of it.	Valerianaceae
<b>Verbascum</b>	<b>nigrum</b>	Dark Mullein	Western Europe (UK).	Produces pollen only. Much visited by bumblebees and solitary bees. Short-lived perennial which seeds itself. Leaves prone to get eaten by the colourful caterpillars of the 'Mullein Dagger' moth. I move them onto sacrificial mulleins that I grow in the vegetable patch.	Scrophulariaceae
<b>Verbascum</b>	<b>speciosum</b>	Mullein	Central Europe	Produces pollen only. Much visited by bumblebees and solitary bees, and has a very long season of flower. A magnificent tall branching plant much used by nature-garden designers in Germany. Good winter rosette of leaves. Biennial or short-lived perennial. Get seeds on-line from Germany. <i>V. longifolium</i> is similar.	Scrophulariaceae
Verbena	hastata	-	North America	A tall perennial Verbena that I am trying out, so far mainly visited by honey bees, needs a few more seasons of observation.	Verbenaceae
Veronica	longifolia	Long-leaved Speedwell	Western Europe	Very attractive plant. Visited by short-tongued bumblebees.	Plantaginaceae

\*The naming of plant families follows the recent *Angiosperm Phylogeny Group* revisions, based on studies of plant DNA. All but the most recently published books will show the previous classification. The most notable changes affecting this planting list are that the genera *Antirrhinum*, *Digitalis*, *Hebe*, *Linaria*, *Penstemon*, *Veronica* and *Veronicastrum* have been moved from the Scrophulariaceae to the Plantaginaceae; Scabiousses and Teasels are now in the Honeysuckle family (Caprifoliaceae), and various genera previously in the Liliaceae have been moved to several other families.

## List 2 - Plants growing in the garden that do not seem to be of value to foraging insects

Some of these are just grown for their ornamental qualities. Others such as the Galium, Luzula and Lysimachia have horticultural qualities such as being good ground cover plants. Interestingly, these are natives. Perhaps they have evolved to use vegetative reproduction instead of relying on insects to pollinate their flower and produce seeds? Some are plants that I have simply tried out to see what insects they attract and I have found that they do not seem to attract any insects.

Genus	Species or cultivar name	English Name	Geographical Area of origin	Comments	Plant Family *
Amaryllis	belladonna	Pink Amaryllis	S. Africa	Grown for ornament only.	Amaryllidaceae
Clematis	montana 'Wilsonii'	-	China	Have observed no insect visitors.	Ranunculaceae
Dactylorhiza	foliosa	Madeiran Marsh Orchid	Madeira	This is from the robust stock that has been in the nursery trade for many years, grows well in gardens and is easy to propagate. Rarely visited by insects however.	Orchidaceae
Daphne	bholua 'Jacqueline Postill'		Himalayas	Grown for ornament only. Scented flowers in winter. No insect visitors.	Thymeleaceae
Crocsmia	Self-sown seedling		Hybrid of wild species from S. Africa	Grown for ornament only; I like the strong orange colour of the flowers, which is not found in European wild plants.	Iridaceae
Galium	odoratum	Woodruff	Western Europe (UK).	A plant of open woodland. Does not seem to attract any insects. Very useful and ornamental ground cover, easy to control and not weedy. Using it to create permanent leafy cover in shady flower bed to encourage frogs, toads, slow worms etc.	Rubiaceae
Hemerocallis	'Sammy Russell'	Day Lily	E. Asia	Grown for ornament only. No insect visitors.	Xanthorrhoeaceae
Iris	pallida dalmatica	Bearded iris.	SE Europe	Attractive traditional bearded iris. Grown for ornament only. Bearded Irises do not attract any pollinating insects in my experience.	Iridaceae
Iris	germanica 'Amas'	cultivated Iris	Iris	As above	Iridaceae
Iris	germanica 'Lorely'	cultivated Iris		As above	Iridaceae
Iris	unguicularis 'Oxford Dwarf'	Winter Flowering Iris	S. Europe.	As above.	Iridaceae
Libertia	peregrinans		New Zealand	For ornament only. No insect visitors	Iridaceae
Libertia	formosa		S. America	For ornament only. Rarely any insect visitors, a few bumblebees in summer.	Iridaceae
Lilium	pardalinum	Leopard Lily	W. USA	For ornament only. No insect visitors in the garden.	Liliaceae

Luzula	nivea	Snowy Woodrush	Central Europe	A small ornamental rush that I grow for its foliage and grass-like inflorescence. Luzula are used as food by the larvae of some lepidoptera although I have not yet noticed this in the garden.	Juncaceae
Luzula	sylvatica 'Hohe Tatra '	Woodrush	Eurasia (UK)	An ornamental form of Woodrush that I grow for its yellow foliage in winter. Comments as previous.	Juncaceae
Lysimachia	nemorum	Yellow Pimpernel	Western Europe (UK).	This and the following are used as ground cover. This one is a small woodland wild flower that trails along the ground but is easy to control. I have never noticed any pollinators visiting, which has surprised me.	Primulaceae
Lysimachia	nummularia	Creeping Jenny	Western Europe (UK).	As above. This wild flower can be invasive in damp ground, but our garden is not damp enough and in our well-drained soil this flower is quite restrained in growth. Again I have never noticed any pollinators visiting.	Primulaceae
Paeonia	'Avant Garde'	Paeony	Hybrid of wild species from Caucasus	I deliberately grow single-flowered paeonies as they have conspicuous stamens covered in pollen. In fact I have only ever observed bumblebees collecting pollen from <i>P. peregrina</i> , which is in the other list above.	Paeoniaceae
Paeonia	emodi	Paeony	Himalayas	As previous.	Paeoniaceae
Philadelphus	microphyllus	Little Leaf Mock Orange	SW USA, Mexico	Grown for its scent. I rarely see any insects visit this flower. In theory a shrub with scented white flowers ought to attract moths, so observation is still in progress.	Hydrangeaceae
Sambucus	nigra 'laciniata'	Elder	Western Europe (UK).	Ornamental leaved form of Elder. Elders seem to be of little interest to pollinating insects. Good for hedges though, As birds hunt for aphids on Elders and then they produce berries for the birds. So worth growing.	Adoxaceae
Sambucus	nigra 'Thundercloud'	Elder	Western Europe (UK).	Another ornamental form of Elder with pinkish flowers and dark leaves. Other comments as above.	Adoxaceae
Saxifraga	dentata	Toothed Saxifrage	Western Europe	A very small plant with interesting leaves. Does not seem to attract pollinating insects.	Saxifragaceae
Saxifraga	x geum	Toothed Saxifrage	Western Europe	As previous.	Saxifragaceae

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