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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographical Origin</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>% of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Europe (inc. UK)</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Asia</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Asia</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Found across Eurasia (inc.UK)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. America</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. America</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aus./NZ</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Africa</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>208</td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genus</th>
<th>Species or cultivar name</th>
<th>English Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area of origin</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Plant Family *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achillea</td>
<td>millefolium pink-flowered form</td>
<td>Yarrow</td>
<td>Northern hemisphere (UK)</td>
<td>Yarrow’s attractiveness to insect pollinators seems to vary, I plan to give it more observation.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achillea</td>
<td>ptarmica</td>
<td>Sneezewort</td>
<td>Europe (UK)</td>
<td>Attractive to small solitary bees. This is the single flowered wild form.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aconitum</td>
<td>Carmichaelii Arendsii</td>
<td>Monkshood</td>
<td>Eastern Asia</td>
<td>Late flowering. Planted as a food source for any late Bombus hortorum colonies. (Long-tongued bumblebee). NB Aconitums are poisonous, wear gloves when cutting back.</td>
<td>Ranunculaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aconitum</td>
<td>napellus anglicum</td>
<td>Wild Monkshood</td>
<td>Europe (UK)</td>
<td>Mainstay for B. hortorum 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 A. napellus are similar.</td>
<td>Ranunculaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aconitum</td>
<td>‘Sparks variety’</td>
<td>Monkshood</td>
<td>Eastern Asia</td>
<td>Used by B. hortorum in mid summer when A. napellus is over.</td>
<td>Ranunculaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agapanthus</td>
<td>‘Bressingham Blue’</td>
<td>Garden hybrid of A. inapertus from South Africa</td>
<td></td>
<td>A smallish, deciduous, dark blue Agapanthus. Looks good in large pots and mainly grown for ornament, but the pendant flowers attract Bombus pascuorum which is an unexpected bonus. Not completely hardy.</td>
<td>Alliaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agastache</td>
<td>rugosa ‘Liquorice bue’</td>
<td>Anise Hyssop, Korean mint</td>
<td>Eastern Asia</td>
<td>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 A. rugosa and A. foeniculum; they look similar. Both seem equally attractive to insects.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allium</td>
<td>roseum</td>
<td>Rosy Garlic</td>
<td>Western Europe</td>
<td>Less attractive to insects than the following two kinds of Allium.</td>
<td>Alliaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allium</td>
<td>schoenoprasum</td>
<td>Chives</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Alliaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allium</td>
<td>sphaerocephalon</td>
<td>Bristol Onion, Round-headed Leek</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>A speciality of Avon Gorge, Bristol. Widespread elsewhere in W. Europe. Highly attractive to insects, especially bumblebees and butterflies. Easy to grow.</td>
<td>Alliaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anemone</td>
<td>tomentosa ‘Robustissima’</td>
<td>Herbaceous anemone</td>
<td>Eastern Asia</td>
<td>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’</td>
<td>Ranunculaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Angelica sylvestris</strong></td>
<td>Wild Angelica</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Apiaceae.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anthemis tinctoria (true species)</strong></td>
<td>Dyers’ Chamomile</td>
<td>W. Europe, naturalised in UK</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthericum liliago</td>
<td>St Bernard’s Lily</td>
<td>W. Europe</td>
<td>From alpine meadows in origin, will grow in grass. Occasionally visited by small mining bees.</td>
<td>Asparagaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthericum bovei</td>
<td>St Bernard’s Lily</td>
<td>W. Europe</td>
<td>Similar to preceeding. Occasionally visited by small mining bees.</td>
<td>Asparagaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antirrhinum braun-blanqueti</td>
<td>Wild Snapdragon</td>
<td>SW Europe</td>
<td>A wild ancestor of the garden Snapdragon, with cream flowers. Long-tongued bumblebee B. hortorum makes a bee-line for this flower, which is clearly adapted to it. Fascinating. Seeds came from Chiltern seeds of Cumbria.</td>
<td>Plantaginaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aquilegia vulgaris</strong></td>
<td>Wild Columbine</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Ranunculaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arbutus unedo</td>
<td>Strawberry Tree</td>
<td>W. Europe (inc. Ireland)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Ericaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asphodeline lutea</td>
<td>King’s spear</td>
<td>W. Europe</td>
<td>Has not proved particularly attractive to insects.</td>
<td>Xanthorrhoeaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aster trinervis ssp. ageratoides ‘Asran’</td>
<td>Michaelmas Daisy</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>A small Aster attracting late solitary bees and Hoverflies.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aster amellus</strong></td>
<td>Starwort, Michaelmas Daisy</td>
<td>Central Europe</td>
<td>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 A. x frikartii ‘Monch’.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aster novae-angliae ‘Purple Cloud’</strong></td>
<td>New England Aster, Michaelmas Daisy. Syn. Symphyotrichum novae-angliae.</td>
<td>Selection of a wild species from U.S.A</td>
<td>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 Aster novae-angliae may be just as good, but I have not tested them.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aster Pyrenaeus ‘Lutetia’</td>
<td>Pyrenean Michaelmas Daisy</td>
<td>Selected from a species from S.W. Europe</td>
<td>Late summer forage nectar source for are range of insects. Not invasive.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aubrietia hybrid.</td>
<td>Aubrietia</td>
<td>S. Europe</td>
<td>Garden hybrid. Attractive to Bee Fly (Bombylius) early in season; also occasional butterflies.</td>
<td>Cruciferae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bupleurum fruticosum</strong></td>
<td>Shaggy Hare’s Ear</td>
<td>SW Europe and Med. Region</td>
<td>Vigorous evergreen shrub, highly attractive to Diptera (flies) and other small insects as a nectar source. Not visited by bees.</td>
<td>Apiaceae.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calamintha grandiflora</td>
<td>Large flowered Calamint</td>
<td>Med. Region</td>
<td>Has not yet attracted so many types of insects as C. nepeta and is not so vigorous.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calamintha nepeta</td>
<td>Lesser Calamint</td>
<td>Southern Europe</td>
<td>Long season, easy to grow in a very sunny place. Has a cloud of tiny flowers. Attractive to a wide range of insects.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Campanula latifolia</strong></td>
<td>Giant Bellflower</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>Grows locally in Wye Valley hedgerows and woods. A beautiful tall wild flower. Attracts Bumblebees, Harebell Bee (Chelostema campanularum) and other solitary bees. For a herbaceous border or dappled shade. (See my factsheet about ‘Solitary Bees in Your Garden’).</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Campanula trachelium</strong></td>
<td>Nettle Leaved Bellflower.</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>Wild form. Grows in hedges and woodland edge. As above, attracts Bumblebees, Harebell Bee (Chelostema campanularum) and other solitary bees.</td>
<td>Campanulaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardamine pratensis</td>
<td>Cuckoo Flower</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>Wild form from local area. Does not attract pollinators but is a potential caterpillar food plant for Orange Tip butterfly.</td>
<td>Brassicaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceanothus ‘Gloire de versailles’</td>
<td>Garden hybrid of species from N. America</td>
<td></td>
<td>Attractive mainly to hoverflies and other very small flies.</td>
<td>Rhamnaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centaurea jacea</td>
<td>Knapweed</td>
<td>Continental Europe</td>
<td>Very similar to C. nigra with which it hybridises.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centaurea montana</td>
<td>Mountain cornflower</td>
<td>Continental Europe</td>
<td>Perennial, attractive to a range of bumblebees and solitary bees.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Centaurea nigra (in a broad sense)</strong></td>
<td>Black Knapweed, Hardheads</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Centaurea scabiosa</strong></td>
<td>Greater Knapweed</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>Larger than C. nigra. Needs staking and tends to be over-vigorous for a garden border. Showy flowers. Attracts wide range of insects.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cirsium ‘Mount Etna’</td>
<td>Mt Etna Thistle</td>
<td>Sicily</td>
<td>Species name unknown, sold under this name in the nursery trade. Attracts a wide range of insects and is not weedy nor invasive.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clematis heracleifolia ‘Wyevale’</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Herbaceous perennial, attractive to moths.</td>
<td>Ranunculaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clematis cirrhosa</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>S. Europe</td>
<td>Climber, winter flowering.</td>
<td>Ranunculaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clematis flammula</td>
<td>Virgin’s Bower</td>
<td>S. Europe</td>
<td>Small-flowered climber. Still assessing it.</td>
<td>Ranunculaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clematis ‘Triternarta Marginata’</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Garden hybrid of wild species from S. Europe</td>
<td>Small-flowered climber. Still assessing it.</td>
<td>Ranunculaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Name</td>
<td>Botanical Name</td>
<td>Birthplace</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clematis</td>
<td>alpina</td>
<td>S. Europe</td>
<td>Small-flowered climber. Nodding blue flower similar to that of an Aquilegia, attracts bumblebees.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotinus</td>
<td>coggyria ‘Grace’</td>
<td>Eastern Europe eastwards to China</td>
<td>Mainly grown for ornamental foliage. Has clouds of tiny flowers which are sometimes visited by bumblebees.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crataegus</td>
<td>laevigata ‘Crimson Cloud’</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianthus</td>
<td>carthusianorum</td>
<td>Western Europe</td>
<td>Grows in hay meadows in France and Spain. Said to be attractive to butterflies. Not very vigorous nor long-lived.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianthus</td>
<td>deltoides</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>Grows in sandy soil. Not observed many insect visitors as yet.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianthus</td>
<td>gratianopolitanus</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>Grows well on walls. Not observed many insect visitors as yet.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digitalis</td>
<td>ferruginea</td>
<td>SW Europe</td>
<td>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 B. pascuorum workers, and solitary bees such as Anthidium manicatum.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digitalis</td>
<td>grandiflora</td>
<td>NW Europe</td>
<td>Woodland-edge perennial with spikes of large soft yellow flowers which attract long-tongued bumblebees such as B. hortorum. A sound perennial, unlike the purple foxglove.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digitalis</td>
<td>purpurea</td>
<td>NW Europe (UK)</td>
<td>Woodland-edge biennial with spikes of large purple or white flowers which attract long-tongued bumblebees such as B. hortorum.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digitalis</td>
<td>lutea</td>
<td>NW Europe</td>
<td>Woodland-edge perennial with spikes of small soft yellow flowers which attract solitary bees and small bumblebees such as B. pascuorum. A perennial.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dipsacus</td>
<td>fullonum</td>
<td>NW Europe (UK)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

© Marc Carlton 2015
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Echinops</strong></th>
<th>'Nivalis'</th>
<th>Globe thistle</th>
<th>Garden hybrid from wild species found in E. and central Europe</th>
<th>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.</th>
<th>Asteraceae</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Echium</strong></td>
<td>vulgare</td>
<td>Viper's Bugloss</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Boraginaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Erica</strong></td>
<td>carnea ‘rosantha’</td>
<td>Winter Flowering Heather</td>
<td>Europe (Alps)</td>
<td>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)</td>
<td>Ericaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Erica</strong></td>
<td>griffithsii 'Heaven Scent'</td>
<td>Shrubby heather</td>
<td>A garden hybrid believed to be derived from southern European species</td>
<td>Attractive to butterflies.</td>
<td>Ericaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Erica</strong></td>
<td>vagans</td>
<td>Cornish Heath</td>
<td>Cornwall, Ireland, Iberian peninsula</td>
<td>A selection from the wild Cornish Heath. Attractive to bumblebees in late summer. Forms a low bush in a sunny position</td>
<td>Ericaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eryngium</strong></td>
<td>planum</td>
<td>Plains Eryngo</td>
<td>North-central Europe</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Apiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eryngium</strong></td>
<td>variifolium</td>
<td>Moroccan sea holly</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>Needs dry sunny position. Attracts small insects such as solitary bees and hoverflies.</td>
<td>Apiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eryngium</strong></td>
<td>X zabellii 'Big Blue'</td>
<td></td>
<td>Central and southern Europe</td>
<td>A selection from Eryngium x zabellii (E. bourgatii x E. alpinum) from central and S. Europe. Needs dry sunny position. Attracts small insects such as solitary bees and hoverflies.</td>
<td>Apiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eryngium</strong></td>
<td>yuccifolium</td>
<td>Rattlesnake Master</td>
<td>Western USA</td>
<td>Has a reputation of attracting large numbers of small pollinators, mainly solitary bees and hoverflies. As yet mine is a young plant.</td>
<td>Apiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eupatorium</strong></td>
<td>purpureum 'Little Red'</td>
<td>Joe Pye Weed</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Name</td>
<td>Common Name</td>
<td>Origin</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eupatorium ligustrinum</td>
<td>syn. Ageratina ligustrina</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euphorbia hyberna</td>
<td>Irish spurge</td>
<td>SW England, Ireland, France</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Euphorbiaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferula tingitanus 'Cedric Morris'</td>
<td>Giant Fennel</td>
<td>SW Europe</td>
<td>Not yet flowered. A tall perennial similar to Fennel, should attract Diptera when it flowers.</td>
<td>Apiaceae.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filipendula vulgaris</td>
<td>Dropwort</td>
<td>Eurasia (UK)</td>
<td>A plant of dry pasture and dry meadows. Does not appear to attract any insects.</td>
<td>Rosaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foeniculum vulgare Bronze Form</td>
<td>Fennel</td>
<td>S. Europe</td>
<td>A culinary herb. Beautiful bronze foliage. Yellow umbellifer flowers attract Diptera (flies/hoverflies) and other small pollinators such as soldier beetles.</td>
<td>Apiaceae.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaillardia aristata (single-flowered garden strain)</td>
<td>Blanket Flower</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galium mollugo</td>
<td>Hedge Bedstraw</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Rubiaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galium verum</td>
<td>Lady's Bedstraw</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>A plant of dry pasture and dry meadows. Very attractive. Unclear what insects it attracts if any.</td>
<td>Rubiaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genista fragrans</td>
<td>Sweet Broom, Easter Broom</td>
<td>Origin unclear, possibly a hybrid of S. European Species.</td>
<td>Syn. Cytisus x racemosus, Cytisus x spachianus. Attracts bumblebees.</td>
<td>Fabaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genista tinctoria</td>
<td>Dyer's Greenweed (wild type)</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>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.]</td>
<td>Fabaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geranium dalmaticum</td>
<td>Cranesbill</td>
<td>SE Europe</td>
<td>Recommended for bumblebees, but so far I have not noticed any visiting it all, over several years.</td>
<td>Geraniaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Name</td>
<td>Scientific Name</td>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dusky cranesbill</td>
<td><em>Geranium phaeum</em> album</td>
<td>W. Europe</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Geraniaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dusky cranesbill</td>
<td><em>Geranium phaeum 'Lily Lovell'</em></td>
<td>W. Europe</td>
<td>This form has dark blue flowers and resembles the wild form found in France. Other comments as above.</td>
<td>Geraniaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dusky cranesbill</td>
<td><em>Geranium phaeum 'Samobor'</em></td>
<td>W. Europe</td>
<td>This form from the Balkans has dark brownish flowers and patterned leaves. Other comments as above.</td>
<td>Geraniaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadow Cranesbill</td>
<td><em>Geranium pratense</em></td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Geraniaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cranesbill</td>
<td><em>Geranium 'Rozanne'</em></td>
<td>A modern horticultural hybrid from European species. Attractive to insects.</td>
<td>Geraniaceae</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloody cranesbill</td>
<td><em>Geranium sanguineum</em></td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>Low growing perennial with purple-red flowers. Found locally on limestone. Occasionally visited by bumblebees.</td>
<td>Geraniaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood cranesbill</td>
<td><em>Geranium sylvaticum</em></td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>Perennial with purple-blue flowers. Found in northern Britain on limestone. Occasionally visited by bumblebees.</td>
<td>Geraniaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Avens</td>
<td><em>Geum rivale</em></td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Rosaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground Ivy</td>
<td><em>Glechoma hederacea, (blue and pink flowered forms)</em></td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden hybrid of wild species from New Zealand</td>
<td><em>Hebe 'Great Orme'</em></td>
<td>Garden hybrid of wild species from New Zealand</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Plantaginaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden hybrid of wild species from New Zealand</td>
<td><em>Hebe 'Hidcote'</em></td>
<td>Garden hybrid of wild species from New Zealand</td>
<td>Nomenclature of Hebes is muddled in the trade and this may be mis-named. The plant that I grow is reasonably attractive to insects.</td>
<td>Plantaginaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden hybrid of wild species from New Zealand</td>
<td><em>Hebe 'Midsummer Beauty'</em></td>
<td>Garden hybrid of wild species from New Zealand</td>
<td>Nomenclature of Hebes is muddled in the trade and this may be mis-named. The plant that I grow is reasonably attractive to insects.</td>
<td>Plantaginaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Rock Rose</td>
<td><em>Helianthemum nummularium</em></td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>Small-leaved and small-flowered form of wild UK provenance. Attractive to range of bees, but next Helianthemum is better.</td>
<td>Cistaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genus</td>
<td>Species/Note</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helianthemum</td>
<td>probably the cultivar 'St John's College Yellow'.</td>
<td>Rock Rose</td>
<td>Cultivar derived from wild species of Europe (UK) origin.</td>
<td>Similar to H. nummularium but bigger leaves and flowers, more vigorous and longer-flowering. A good pollen source for all kinds of bees.</td>
<td>Cistaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helianthus</td>
<td>decapetalus 'Maximus'</td>
<td>Perennial sunflower</td>
<td>Cultivar derived from a wild species from USA.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helianthus</td>
<td>x laetifolius 'Lemon Queen'</td>
<td>Perennial sunflower</td>
<td>Selection from a naturally occurring hybrid between two wild species from the USA and Canada.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helichrysum</td>
<td>italicum 'Dartington'</td>
<td>Curry plant</td>
<td>S. Europe</td>
<td>Selection of of Curry Plant. The yellow flowers are visited by small solitary bees (mainly Colletes).</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helleborus</td>
<td>foetidus</td>
<td>Stinking hellebore</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>Early nectar source for bumblebees in Feb and March. NB All hellebores are poisonous, wear gloves when cutting back.</td>
<td>Ranunculaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helleborus</td>
<td>hybridus types</td>
<td>Hellebores</td>
<td>Hybrids of wild species from Southern Europe</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Ranunculaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemerocallis</td>
<td>lilio-asphodelus</td>
<td>Yellow day lily</td>
<td>From Eastern Asia</td>
<td>Mainly grown for ornament. Occasionally visited by bumblebees but they struggle with the flower shape.</td>
<td>Xanthorrhoeaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hesperis</td>
<td>matronalis</td>
<td>Dames violet, Sweet Rocket</td>
<td>Western Europe</td>
<td>Often recommended as a butterfly flower, this year I observed moths visiting it. Does not attract bees.</td>
<td>Cruciferae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hieraceum</td>
<td>maculatum</td>
<td>Spotted Hawkweed</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypericum</td>
<td>tetrapterum</td>
<td>Square-stemmed St Johns Wort</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Hypericaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inula</td>
<td>hookeri</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Himalayas</td>
<td>Large yellow daisies in early to mid summer, attractive to bees, butterflies and pollen beetles. Plant has large basal leaves.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inula racemosa</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Caucasus</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris sibirica ‘Perry’s Blue’</td>
<td>Siberian Iris</td>
<td>Selection of a species found wild across Eurasia</td>
<td>Some interest from insects.</td>
<td>Iridaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris sibirica white seedling</td>
<td>Siberian Iris</td>
<td>Selection of a species found wild across Eurasia</td>
<td>White form grown from seed. Some interest from insects.</td>
<td>Iridaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris x robusta ‘Gerald Derby’</td>
<td>Garden hybrid of two species from USA</td>
<td>Prefers damp soil. Good deep red emerging foliage. Blue flowers are visited by bumblebees.</td>
<td>Iridaceae</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris pseudacorus 'Variegata'</td>
<td>Yellow flag</td>
<td>Variegated selection of a species found wild across Eurasia (UK)</td>
<td>Prefers damp soil or water. Emerging foliage coloured cream. Yellow flowers are visited by bumblebees. A very beautiful plant.</td>
<td>Iridaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasminum officinale</td>
<td>White Jasmine</td>
<td>Central Asia</td>
<td>Grown primarily for ornament and its scent. Is occasionally visited by long-tongued bumblebees.</td>
<td>Oleaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knautia arvensis</td>
<td>Field scabious</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>Attractive to a wide range of insects. Will grow in long grass.</td>
<td>Caprifoliaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knautia macedonia</td>
<td>Red scabious</td>
<td>Southern Europe</td>
<td>Attractive to a wide range of insects. Will grow in long grass and seeds itself into lawns.</td>
<td>Caprifoliaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactuca perennis</td>
<td>Blue Lettuce</td>
<td>Western Europe</td>
<td></td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamium orvala</td>
<td>Balkan Dead Nettle</td>
<td>S. Europe</td>
<td>Classy relative of Dead Nettle for dappled shade. Flowers adapted to long-tongued bees. Fascinating to watch bees enter the flowers.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lathyrus pratensis</td>
<td>Meadow Vetchling</td>
<td>Eurasia (UK)</td>
<td>Grows in long grass, mown in autumn and winter. Too vigorous for a flowerbed. Attracts small solitary bees and some bumblebees.</td>
<td>Fabaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavandula x intermedia 'Edelweiss'</td>
<td>English Lavender</td>
<td>Hybrids derived from wild species originally from S. Europe</td>
<td>Needs a dry sunny situation. The 'intermedia' group of Lavenders make large tall plants and are the most attractive to insects.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavandula x intermedia 'Grosso'</td>
<td>English Lavender</td>
<td>As previous</td>
<td>As previous. In scientific tests this cultivar produced the most nectar.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavandula x intermedia 'Lullingstone Castle'</td>
<td>English Lavender</td>
<td>As previous</td>
<td>As previous</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lavandula x intermedia 'Seal'</strong></td>
<td>English Lavender</td>
<td>As previous</td>
<td>As previous</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leontodon rigens</strong></td>
<td>Hawkbit</td>
<td>Azores</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ligusticum scoticum</strong></td>
<td>Sea lovage</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>A small herb. Does not seem to attract any insects.</td>
<td>Apiaceae.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lilium martagon</strong></td>
<td>Turks cap Lily</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Liliaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Linaria purpurea (also pink form)</strong></td>
<td>Purple Toadflax</td>
<td>S. Europe</td>
<td>Unassuming plant that is attractive to bumblebees</td>
<td>Plantaginaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lobelia siphilitca</strong></td>
<td>Great Blue Lobelia</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Attracts late season bumble bees</td>
<td>Campanulaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lonicera X americana (seedling)</strong></td>
<td>Honeysuckle</td>
<td>Hybrid between W. European species. Despite the name it is not from America.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Caprifoliaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lonicera periclymenum (various cultivars)</strong></td>
<td>Honeysuckle</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>Supposedly visited by moths but I have yet to observe this. Occasionally B. hortorum visits. More bees visit the previous type.</td>
<td>Caprifoliaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lonicera fragrantissima</strong></td>
<td>Winter flowering honeysuckle</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Caprifoliaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lotus corniculatus</strong></td>
<td>Bird's Foot trefoil</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Fabaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lotus hirsutus</strong></td>
<td>Dorycnium</td>
<td>S. Europe, Med. region</td>
<td>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'.</td>
<td>Fabaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lysimachia nemorum</strong></td>
<td>Yellow Pimpernel</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>Creeping plant that needs a damp soil. I have never seen any insect visit this flower!</td>
<td>Myrsinaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lysimachia nummularia</strong></td>
<td>Creeping Jenny</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>Needs a damp soil. I have never seen any insect visit this flower either!</td>
<td>Myrsinaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lythrum salicaria</strong></td>
<td>Purple Loosestrife</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>Needs a damp soil. An excellent garden plant attracting plenty of insects.</td>
<td>Lythraceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Matthiola</strong></td>
<td><strong>incana</strong></td>
<td>Hoary Stock (type species)</td>
<td>Britain and France</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Cruciferae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meconopsis</strong></td>
<td><strong>cambrica</strong></td>
<td>Welsh Poppy</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>Used as a pollen source by bumblebees. A common cottage garden flower that grows wild in mountainous areas. Will grow in semi-shade.</td>
<td>Papaveraceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Melittis</strong></td>
<td>melissophyllum</td>
<td>Bastard Balm</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>Attractive perennial hedgerow flower that attracts bumblebees. Prefer semi-shade.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Melittis</strong></td>
<td>melissophyllum 'Royal Velvet'</td>
<td>Bastard Balm</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>As above. This is just a selected colour.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mentha</strong></td>
<td>longifolia 'Buddleia Mint' group</td>
<td>Buddleia mint</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Myrrhis</strong></td>
<td>odorata</td>
<td>Sweet Cicely</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>Easy to grow perennial for half shade. So far I have observed few insect visitors.</td>
<td>Apiaceae.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Myrtus</strong></td>
<td>communis</td>
<td>Myrtle</td>
<td>South Europe</td>
<td>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 Bombus terrestris. Here in Chepstow the bumblebees seem to have other attractions, and pay little attention to the Myrtles.</td>
<td>Myrtaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nectaroscordon</strong></td>
<td>siculum</td>
<td></td>
<td>South Europe</td>
<td>A bulbous plant, easy to grow in an open sunny position. Attracts bumblebees and social wasps</td>
<td>Alliaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nepeta</strong></td>
<td>grandiflora 'Dawn to Dusk'</td>
<td>Caucasus Catmint</td>
<td>Cultivar derived from a wild sp. from the Caucasus</td>
<td>My plant still not big enough to assess properly, but seems popular with bumblebees. More observation next year.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nepeta</strong></td>
<td>sibirica</td>
<td>Siberian Catmint</td>
<td>Siberia</td>
<td>Very popular with bumblebees and other bees. A robust catmint with a long flowering season. Local cats seem to leave it alone.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nepeta</strong></td>
<td>subsessilis</td>
<td>Japanese Catmint</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>From shady hillsides, needs different conditions to the other Nepetas. My plants still not big enough to assess properly. More observation next year.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nicotiana</strong></td>
<td>alata (syn. affinis)</td>
<td>Sweet Tobacco</td>
<td>Brazil and Argentina.</td>
<td>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 Convolvulus Hawkmoth is strongly attracted to this flower. It is worth growing for that reason in case the Convolvulus Hawkmoth turns up.</td>
<td>Solanaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oenothera</strong> sp.</td>
<td><strong>Evening Primrose</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td><strong>Onagraceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Onobrychis viciifolia</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sainfoin</strong></td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>A second accession, this one a wild type that grows on chalk downland. Not yet flowered.</td>
<td><strong>Fabaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Origanum vulgare yellow leaved</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wild Marjoram</strong></td>
<td>Europe (UK)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td><strong>Lamiaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paeonia peregrina</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wild Paeony</strong></td>
<td>Southern Europe</td>
<td>A single flowered paeony, thick boss of yellow stamens is occasionally visited by bumble bees, but not one of their favourite flowers.</td>
<td><strong>Paeoniaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Penstemon heterophyllus</strong></td>
<td><strong>Foothill Penstemon</strong></td>
<td>California Coast Range mountains</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td><strong>Plantaginaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phlomis fruticosa</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>S. Europe</td>
<td>A yellow Phlomis (not sure of the name) that is visited by B. hortorum</td>
<td><strong>Lamiaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phlomis russelliana</strong></td>
<td><strong>Turkish Sage</strong></td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td><strong>Lamiaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phuopsis stylosa</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Eastern Europe</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Rubiaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pimpinella saxifraga</strong></td>
<td><strong>Burnet saxifrage</strong></td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td><strong>Apiaceae.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pimpinella major rosea</strong></td>
<td><strong>Greater Burnet Saxifrage</strong></td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>Unlike the previous this does not set seed, but it hardly seems to attract any pollinators.</td>
<td><strong>Apiaceae.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Potentilla recta</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>Mainly attracts small solitary bees</td>
<td><strong>Rosaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primula elatior</strong></td>
<td><strong>Oxlip</strong></td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>Not a great deal of insect interest. Main visitor to primulas that I have observed is the Bee Fly (Bombylius).</td>
<td><strong>Primulaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primula Veris, and veris 'Sunset Shades'</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cowslip</strong></td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>Visited by the occasional bumblebee, solitary bee or bee fly.</td>
<td><strong>Primulaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primula acaulis (early white form)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Primrose</strong></td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>White flowered cultivar of wild flower, comments as previous.</td>
<td><strong>Primulaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prostanthera cuneata</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mint Bush</strong></td>
<td><strong>Australia</strong></td>
<td><strong>This little mint-scented evergreen bush is visited by bumblebees.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lamiaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pulicaria dysenterica</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yellow Fleabane</strong></td>
<td><strong>Western Europe (UK)</strong>.</td>
<td><strong>Needs damp soil. Not a great deal insect interest, although often recommended. Possibly I need a larger clump.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Asteraceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pulmonaria officinalis</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lungwort</strong></td>
<td><strong>W. Europe.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Strongly attractive to early bumblebees and to Anthophora plumipes. Important early pollen and nectar source.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lamiaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pulsatilla vulgaris</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pasque Flower</strong></td>
<td><strong>Western Europe (UK)</strong>.</td>
<td><strong>Rarely observe any insects visiting so far, possibly because I am not very good at growing this plant. It seems very prone to drought.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ranunculaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ranunculus acris</strong></td>
<td><strong>Meadow Buttercup</strong></td>
<td><strong>Western Europe (UK)</strong>.</td>
<td><strong>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 Chelostoma florisomne.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ranunculaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ranunculus ficaria 'Brazen Hussy'</strong></td>
<td><strong>Celandine</strong></td>
<td><strong>Western Europe (UK)</strong>.</td>
<td><strong>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.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ranunculaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reseda luteola</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dyer’s Weld</strong></td>
<td><strong>Eurasia (UK)</strong></td>
<td><strong>A biennial flower of stony wasteland, the thin green flower spikes attract the solitary ‘Mask Bee’ or ‘White Faced Bee’ Hylaeus signatus. Worth growing for this reason. Other species of Reseda also attract this bee. (See my factsheet about ‘solitary Bees in Your garden’).</strong></td>
<td><strong>Resedaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ribes laurifolium</strong></td>
<td><strong>Laurel-leaved Currant</strong></td>
<td><strong>China</strong></td>
<td><strong>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.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Grossulariaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rosmarinus officinalis</strong></td>
<td><strong>Blue flowered Rosemary</strong></td>
<td><strong>S. Europe</strong></td>
<td><strong>Excellent forage for early bees.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lamiaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rosmarinus officinalis var. albilflorus</strong></td>
<td><strong>White flowered Rosemary</strong></td>
<td><strong>S. Europe</strong></td>
<td><strong>Excellent forage for early bees.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lamiaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rosmarinus Officinalis ‘Corsican Pink’</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mauve flowered Rosemary</strong></td>
<td><strong>S. Europe</strong></td>
<td><strong>Excellent forage for early bees. This form is extremely early flowering.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lamiaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rosmarinus officinalis var. albilflorus ‘Lady in White’</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rosemary</strong></td>
<td><strong>Southern Europe</strong></td>
<td><strong>Excellent forage for early bees.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lamiaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rosmarinus Officinalis ‘Capri’</strong></td>
<td><strong>trailing Rosemary</strong></td>
<td><strong>S. Europe</strong></td>
<td><strong>Excellent forage for early bees. This form is prostrate.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lamiaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salvia nemorosa ‘Caradonna’</strong></td>
<td><strong>Woodland Sage, Balkan Clary</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cultivar selected from a wild sp. from Central and Eastern Europe</strong></td>
<td><strong>S. nemorosa and related S. sylvestris are excellent forage plants for many insects.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lamiaceae</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salvia nemorosa 'Lubeca'</strong></td>
<td>Woodland Sage, Balkan Clary</td>
<td>Cultivar selected from a wild sp. from Central and Eastern Europe</td>
<td>Really popular with bumblebees and small solitaries. 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.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvia officinalis</td>
<td>Culinary sage</td>
<td>S. Europe, Med. region</td>
<td>Flowers popular with bumblebees. Cultivars vary. This one has good blue flowers, but not as good as 'Spanish Sage'.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salvia officinalis 'Greek sage'</strong></td>
<td>Greek Sage</td>
<td>S. Europe, Med. region</td>
<td>Identity unclear, probably a form of S. officinalis, but much more floriferous and early flowering, a magnet for insects.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvia pratensis</td>
<td>Meadow Clary</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>Attracts bumblebees. A hay meadow plant in central Europe. Popular with slugs and snails unfortunately.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scabiosa columbaria</strong></td>
<td>Small Scabious</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK) and Med. region.</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Dipsacaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scabiosa columbaria ssp. ochroleuca</strong></td>
<td>Yellow Small Scabious</td>
<td>South Eastern Europe</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Dipsacaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedum forsteranum</td>
<td></td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>Grows wild locally in Wye Valley on stony banks. Not a great deal of insect visitors.</td>
<td>Crassulaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedum rupestre</td>
<td></td>
<td>W. Europe.</td>
<td>The form that I grow attracts bumblebees.</td>
<td>Crassulaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedum spectabile</td>
<td></td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Crassulaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedum telephium ssp. telephium</td>
<td></td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>Occasional visits by a variety of insects, mainly bees.</td>
<td>Crassulaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedum ‘Purple Emperor’</td>
<td>Garden form of S. telephium group</td>
<td></td>
<td>Occasional visits by a variety of insects, mainly bees.</td>
<td>Crassulaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedum ‘Strawberries and Cream’</td>
<td>Garden form of S. telephium group</td>
<td></td>
<td>Occasional visits by a variety of insects, mainly bees.</td>
<td>Crassulaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silene vulgaris</td>
<td>Bladder Campion</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Caryophyllaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genus</td>
<td>Species</td>
<td>Common Name</td>
<td>Origin</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solidago</td>
<td>rugosa ‘Fireworks’</td>
<td>Canadian Goldenrod</td>
<td>Hybrid of N. American species.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solidago</td>
<td>virgaurea</td>
<td>Wild Goldenrod</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stachys</td>
<td>byzantina</td>
<td>Lamb's Ear</td>
<td>South Eastern Europe</td>
<td>A magnet for the entertaining Wool Carder Bee (Anthidium manicatum). 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').</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stachys</td>
<td>officinalis</td>
<td>Betony</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stachys</td>
<td>sylvatica</td>
<td>Hedge Woundwort</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Succisia</td>
<td>pratensis</td>
<td>Devil's Bit scabious</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>Visited by a range of insects; an excellent late summer forage source. Not invasive. Can be easily naturalised in a starved lawn.</td>
<td>Caprifolaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symphytum</td>
<td>‘Hidcote Blue’</td>
<td>Early Comfrey</td>
<td>A garden hybrid of two European species</td>
<td>Slowly spreading ground cover, unlike many other Comfreys does not have deep tap-root, so is easy to control. Very good early forage for bumblebees and a magnet for Anthophora plumipes. (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.</td>
<td>Boraginaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symphytum</td>
<td>azureum</td>
<td>Azure comfrey</td>
<td>Eastern Europe</td>
<td>Used by bumblebees but not as attractive to them as ‘Hidcote Blue’. This one has more of a tap root. I control it carefully.</td>
<td>Boraginaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanacetum</td>
<td>Vulgare ‘Isla Gold’</td>
<td>Tansy</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teucrium</td>
<td>chamaedrys</td>
<td>Wall Germander</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>A well-known forage source for bumblebees.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teucrium</td>
<td>hircanum</td>
<td>Caucasian Germander</td>
<td>Caucasus</td>
<td>Spikes of tiny flowers attract short-tongued bees.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Name</td>
<td>Botanical Name</td>
<td>Common Name</td>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thalictrum</td>
<td>flavum</td>
<td>Common Meadow Rue</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Ranunculaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thymus pulegiodes</td>
<td>Creeping Thyme</td>
<td>Round-leaved Creeping Thyme</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>This large leafed 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.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thymus 'Jekka's Thyme'</td>
<td>Creeping Thyme</td>
<td>Hybrid of species of European origin.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tough evergreen creeping thyme, more robust than most, Very early flowering. Attractive to all kinds of bees.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thymus herba barona</td>
<td>Caraway scented thyme.</td>
<td>Southern Europe</td>
<td></td>
<td>Vigorous creeping thyme, small leaves, suitable for walls, gravel etc. Lots of small flowers mid-season. Attractive to all kinds of bees.</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valeriana</td>
<td>officinalis</td>
<td>White Valerian</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Valerianaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbascum nigrum</td>
<td>Dark Mullein</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Scrophulariaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbascum speciosum</td>
<td>Mulein</td>
<td>Central Europe</td>
<td></td>
<td>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. V. longifolium is similar.</td>
<td>Scrophulariaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbena hastata</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>North America</td>
<td></td>
<td>A tall perennial Verbena that I am trying out, so far mainly visited by honey bees, needs a few more seasons of observation.</td>
<td>Verbenaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veronica longifolia</td>
<td>Long-leaved Speedwell</td>
<td>Western Europe</td>
<td></td>
<td>Very attractive plant. Visited by short-tongued bumblebees.</td>
<td>Plantaginaceae</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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; Scabiouses and Teasels are now in the Honeysuckle family (Caprifoliaceae), and various genera previously in the Liliaceae have been moved to several other families.*

© Marc Carlton 2015
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genus</th>
<th>Species or cultivar name</th>
<th>English Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area of origin</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Plant Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amaryllis</td>
<td>belladonna</td>
<td>Pink Amaryllis</td>
<td>S. Africa</td>
<td>Grown for ornament only.</td>
<td>Amaryllidaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clematis</td>
<td>montana ‘Wilsonii’</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Have observed no insect visitors.</td>
<td>Ranunculaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dactylorrhiza</td>
<td>foliosa</td>
<td>Madeiran Marsh Orchid</td>
<td>Madeira</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Orchidaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daphne</td>
<td>bholua ‘Jacqueline Postill’</td>
<td>Himalayas</td>
<td>Grown for ornament only. Scented flowers in winter. No insect visitors.</td>
<td>Thymeleaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crocosmia</td>
<td>Self-sown seedling</td>
<td>Hybrid of wild species from S. Africa</td>
<td>Grown for ornament only; I like the strong orange colour of the flowers, which is not found in European wild plants.</td>
<td>Iridaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galium</td>
<td>odoratum</td>
<td>Woodruff</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK).</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Rubiaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemerocallis</td>
<td>‘Sammy Russell’</td>
<td>Day Lily</td>
<td>E. Asia</td>
<td>Grown for ornament only. No insect visitors.</td>
<td>Xanthorrhoeaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris</td>
<td>pallida dalmatica</td>
<td>Bearded iris.</td>
<td>SE Europe</td>
<td>Attractive traditional bearded iris. Grown for ornament only. Bearded Irises do not attract any pollinating insects in my experience.</td>
<td>Iridaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris</td>
<td>germanica ‘Amas’</td>
<td>cultivated Iris</td>
<td>Iris</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>Iridaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris</td>
<td>germanica ‘Lorely’</td>
<td>cultivated Iris</td>
<td>Iris</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>Iridaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris</td>
<td>unguicularis ‘Oxford Dwarf’</td>
<td>Winter Flowering Iris</td>
<td>S. Europe.</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>Iridaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libertia</td>
<td>peregrinans</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>For ornament only. No insect visitors</td>
<td>Iridaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libertia</td>
<td>formosa</td>
<td>S. America</td>
<td>For ornament only. Rarely any insect visitors, a few bumblebees in summer.</td>
<td>Iridaceae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilium</td>
<td>pardalinum</td>
<td>Leopard Lily</td>
<td>W. USA</td>
<td>For ornament only. No insect visitors in the garden.</td>
<td>Liliaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Name</td>
<td>Scientific Name</td>
<td>Common Name</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luzula</td>
<td>nivea</td>
<td>Snowy Woodrush</td>
<td>Central Europe</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luzula</td>
<td>sylvatica 'Hohe Tatra '</td>
<td>Woodrush</td>
<td>Eurasia (UK)</td>
<td>An ornamental form of Woodrush that I grow for its yellow foliage in winter. Comments as previous.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lysimachia</td>
<td>nemorum</td>
<td>Yellow Pimpernel</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lysimachia</td>
<td>nummularia</td>
<td>Creeping Jenny</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paeonia</td>
<td>‘Avant Garde’</td>
<td>Paeony</td>
<td>Hybrid of wild species from Caucasus</td>
<td>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 P. peregrina, which is in the other list above.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paeonia</td>
<td>emodi</td>
<td>Paeony</td>
<td>Himalayas</td>
<td>As previous.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphus</td>
<td>microphyllus</td>
<td>Little Leaf Mock Orange</td>
<td>SW USA, Mexico</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sambucus</td>
<td>nigra 'laciniata'</td>
<td>Elder</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sambucus</td>
<td>nigra 'Thundercloud'</td>
<td>Elder</td>
<td>Western Europe (UK)</td>
<td>Another ornamental form of Elder with pinkish flowers and dark leaves. Other comments as above.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saxifraga</td>
<td>dentata</td>
<td>Toothed Saxifrage</td>
<td>Western Europe</td>
<td>A very small plant with interesting leaves. Does not seem to attract pollinating insects.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saxifraga</td>
<td>x geum</td>
<td>Toothed Saxifrage</td>
<td>Western Europe</td>
<td>As previous.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Terms of Use
© Marc Carlton 2015. You may print this document for personal use, or for use by not-for-profit community groups or for non-commercial, not-for-profit educational purposes.
Other reproduction, re-publication, or copying in articles, essays, websites and blogs is prohibited without permission.