

This Week We Are Looking at Bees
&
How We Can Help Them

THE ART OF BEES

This is a wonderful thing. The beekeeper forgot to put the frame in his hive, so the bees just freestyled, building a structure that would best handle temperature and ventilation. Organic form. [via @Gsharpertools]



BEE FACTS

- ✘ Bees are entirely dependent on flowers for food, which consists of pollen and nectar, the latter sometimes modified and stored as honey.
- ✘ As bees go from flower to flower gathering pollen, a small amount is rubbed from their bodies and deposited on the flowers they visit.
- ✘ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1tivismCnD5A> click here to watch bees collecting nectar

BEE FRIENDLY GARDEN

- ✘ Cutting the grass less often gives pollinators shelter and a place to feed
- ✘ If you have a lawn, give your mower – and back – a rest by letting some of it grow longer. When you do mow, cutting less often and less closely will help give pollinators places to feed and shelter among the grass.



MAKE A BEE HOTEL

- ✘ There are lots of ways to make a bee hotel. The simplest method is to use an old plastic bottle stuffed with lengths of twigs and stems.



BE A BEE DETECTIVE SEE WHICH BEES VISIT YOUR GARDEN?

Bee identification

All
bumblebees
shown are
worker
bees

Wild
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Gardens











 <p>14-17mm</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Buff-tailed bumblebee	 <p>12-18mm</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Willoughby's leafcutter bee	 <p>11mm</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Red mason bee	 <p>10-16mm</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Tree bumblebee	 <p>12-18mm</p> <input type="checkbox"/> White-tailed bumblebee
 <p>13-14mm</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed bumblebee	 <p>10mm</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Tawny mining bee	 <p>13mm</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Common carder bee	 <p>13mm</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Wool carder bee	 <p>14-15mm</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Hairy footed flower bee

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www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk

These are just a few of the 250+ species of bee in the UK!