

# Bees

- Bee Seeds

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Save the bees with your own wildflower garden



## Introduction

For our wedding we wanted to help with something close to our hearts - in fact, one of the earliest conversations Chris and Victoria had was about the (at the time) recent news about the decline of bee populations in the UK, and how important it is to save our fuzzy little friends. You can find out a lot more about it here <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/bees!>

One of the favours we have given our wedding guests is a glass vial of wildflower seeds - hopefully you got to this page from the label attached to it!

Each bottle covers 4 and a bit square metres, and for all of our guests that's 149 square metres of wildflower gardens for our bee friends to thrive in.

This seed mixture has a variety of flowers that are perfectly adapted to the needs of colony bees, solitary and bumble bees - flowers that have lots of nectar and pollen for them to feed on, and some plants that have hollow stalks that make lovely homes for bees in the winter. The bees will also help pollinate and spread your wildflower garden over years to come, as well as helping them

to improve the biodiversity of our world. By making your small patch of wildflower garden, you're lending a hand to nature.

If you plant your own wildflower garden, please send a picture to [jagmills@gmail.com](mailto:jagmills@gmail.com) when they're in bloom so we can add it to our collection :)

## Planting

The wildflower meadow grows best in a sunny location with deep, loose and weed-free soil. The best time to plant your seeds is between April and June. This can be the soil in your garden, a planter, or a verge at the side of a quiet road.

Your bottle will make a patch of around 4 square metres, which will keep a lot of bees happy.

After you've found your spot:

- Rake the soil up, and add some compost to it if you like
- Work the seeds lightly into the soil and spread the entire bottle around your 4sqm patch
- Press carefully on the soil to cover the seeds, aiming for them to be 2cm deep
- Water in so the ground is soaked

Your seeds will germinate in 10-14 days from planting (as long as the soil is 12-18 degrees C). The seeds are a mix of perennial and annual flowers, so some will be dormant over winter and sprout again the following year.

## Composition

For those garden types, the mix of seeds is made up of these varieties. See how many you can spot - each bottle will have a unique mix!

- *Agrostemma githago* (corn cockle)
- *Alyssum maritimum* (stonewort)
- *Ammi majus* / *visnaga* (carrot)
- *Anethum graveolens* (dill)
- *Borago officinalis* (borage)
- *Calendula officinalis* (marigold)
- *Centuarea cyanus* (cornflower)
- *Coreopsis tinc* (girl's eye)
- *Coriandrum sativuum*

- *Cosmos bipinnatus*
- *Cynoglossum amabile*
- *Dracocephalum moldavicum*
- *Echium plantagineum*
- *Eschscholzia californica*
- *Lupinus angustifolius* L. (coriander)
- *Helianthus annuus* (half-height sunflower)
- *Hesperis matronalis* (night violet)
- *Lavatera trimestris* (mallow)
- *Malva sylvestris* (mallow)
- *Nigella damascena* (Maid in the Green)
- *Papaver rhoeas* (Gossip Poppy)
- *Salvia horminum* (Sage)
- *Sanguisorba minor* (Small Meadow Button)
- *Saponaria vaccaria rosea* (Soapwort)
- *Tropaeolum majus* (Nasturtium Cress)