

Friendly insect's fact sheet 4

Other helpful creepy crawlies!

There are lots of other helpful insects that we can encourage to our gardens, hover flies, ground beetles, bees and butterflies.

Pollinators

Bees and butterflies are very important in the garden as they pollinate our flowers. Butterflies will come to most flowers but can be attracted by specific species; buddleia, sedum (ice plant) and lavender (ideal for bees) will encourage them to visit. Your local garden centre will be able to advise on other plants. Incidentally, moths will do the same job at night!

Hoverflies also pollinate our flowers but with an added bonus, their larvae, which look like flat maggots, feed on aphids!

Most of us can't have a bee hive in our garden, so we have to rely on honey bees visiting our garden. However, we can encourage solitary bee species to our gardens by providing ready made homes for them.

honey bee



Painted lady butterfly



Hover fly

Slug Munchers!

Ground beetles are a valuable ally in the garden.

As adults and larvae they eat slugs!

During the night, they follow the slimy trail left by slugs, tracking them down. Once they find one, they devour it! If we provide places for them to hide during the day, they can be 'on call' to help control the slug population.



Providing a home

We can benefit from insect neighbours by providing a home, or for those that over winter, somewhere to hibernate. Ground beetles simply need some large rocks and stones or even bits of natural wood to crawl under, dotted about the garden. But other creatures, like solitary bees and butterflies need a bit more help. Below are some examples of 'bug boxes' which do just that.



Ladybird/lacewing and bee house Butterfly box (hibernation) Simple bee and lacewing box

These and other boxes can be made fairly easily or you can buy them from a number of sources, try your local garden centre or the RSPB. For more details visit the NDCCS web site.

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