



BWARS

Featuring:

- Information on Autumn species
- Food sources
- Nesting

Suggested Flowers for Autumn and Winter

Verbena (*Verbena bonariensis*)

Penstemon

(*Penstemon*)

Honeysuckle

(*Lonicera*)

Ice Plant (*Sedum spectabile*)

Larkspur

(*Delphinium*)

Cone flower

(*Echinacea purpurea*)

Michaelmas Daisy

(*Aster novi-belgii*)

Golden rod (*Solidago canadensis*)

Perennial Sunflower (*Helianthus*)

Red Valerian

(*Centranthus ruber*)

Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

Winter flowering honeysuckle

(*Lonicera purpusii*)

Winter flowering heathers (*Erica*)

Winter flowering Clematis (*Clematis cirrhosa*)

Mahonia (*Mahonia*)



Hymettus Ltd is the premier source of advice on the conservation of bees, wasps and ants within Great Britain and Ireland.

<http://hymettus.org.uk/>

Information Sheet

Gardening for Bees - Autumn

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Bees in Autumn

In late summer bumblebee colonies produce males and new queens. Through the autumn they need to find food to survive. After mating and feeding well the new queen searches out a suitable place to hibernate and remains there all through winter. With milder weather there has been an increase in bumblebee queens starting new nests in autumn and winter.

Some species of solitary bee continue to feed and provision nests well into the autumn. When completed, the nests are sealed with a plug of mud or leaf mixture.

The old queen, workers, males and all the adult solitary bees do not live to see the next generation.

Food sources

In autumn the number of flowers begins to decrease, but a ready and continuous supply of pollen and nectar are still being sought by bees until late in the year. Suggestions of suitable flowers for this time of year are shown in the list to the left.

Careful pruning can increase the length of flowering or even delay the start of flowering till later. Look for gaps in flowering and try to find a plant that will fill that gap for the next year. Leave dead stems on plants in the border over winter as they may provide homes and shelter for many insects including some bees.

Nesting

Gardeners can help bumblebees by leaving suitable places for hibernation undisturbed, such as a cool, north facing bank which they can burrow into.

Nest sites of solitary bees (in the ground, in borders and the lawn, and in wood and in plant stems) should be left undisturbed through the winter. It can be useful to mark the site of spring and summer ground nests as they can easily be forgotten about when forking over soil. Where nests occur in bare ground the area should be kept relatively free of ground covering plants.

Late winter is the best time to consider providing new artificial nest sites for next year's bees.

BWARS, The Bees Wasps & Ants Recording Society is the national recording scheme which provides the only source of fully validated data on the UK bee, wasp & ant fauna.

<http://www.bwars.com/>

- * Make your garden a bee friendly zone
- * Colourful plantings
- * Continuity of forage
- * Benefits to the gardener
- * **Do your bit for the conservation of bees**



A male *Bombus terrestris* at *Verbena bonariensis*



Colletes hederae at Ivy flowers



Bombus pratorum male sleeping in seedhead of *Eupatorium*



Queen *Bombus pratorum* on *Sedum*

For further information:

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