

In the UK we have around **270 species** of...

Wild bees

Bumblebees and solitary bees are wild bees, and they are the heroes of the pollinator world.

Here are **10 wild bee species** you may have spotted buzzing around.

Bumblebees

There are 24 species of bumblebee in the UK

- There are between 40-400 individuals in a bumblebee nest.
- Queen bumblebees are amongst the earliest pollinators to emerge in spring.

There is only **ONE SPECIES** of honey bee in the UK

Red-tailed bumblebee
Bombus lapidarius



Early bumblebee
Bombus pratorum



Common carder bee
Bombus pascuorum



Buff-tailed bumblebee
Bombus terrestris



White-tailed bumblebee
Bombus lucorum



Solitary bees

There are over 200 species of solitary bee in the UK

- There are around 70 species of mining bee (*Andrena*), five flower bees (*Anthophora*) and around 40 species of sweat bees (*Halictus* & *LasioGLOSSUM*).
- Solitary bees do not have a queen or live in a hive. They live alone in nests underground, inside plant stems, in deadwood or even in old snail shells!

Panulloon bee
Dasygaster hirtipes



Green-eyed flower bee
Anthophora bimaculata



Blue mason bee
Osmia caerulea



Leafcutter bee
Megachile



Red mason bee
Osmia bicornis



Bee facts

Various bees, hoverflies, beetles, wasps, butterflies and moths pollinate wildflowers and we rely on them for every third mouthful of food we eat.

Solitary bees are the most effective bee pollinators because they are messier, using a brush instead of a basket, to collect pollen.

Without bees, we would be unable to grow lots of our favourite foods, including tomatoes and blueberries.

Bee decline

The use of insecticides and herbicides have been linked to declining bee numbers.

Wildflower meadows are a great source of nectar-rich food for many bee species but 97% of these have been lost in England and Wales since World War II.

How can we help bees?

Feed wild bees with wildflowers like daisies and clover that are rich in pollen and nectar by leaving lawns uncut for the spring and summer to create a mini meadow.

Add a shallow water dish with pebbles or create a mini wildlife pond so bees can take a drink.

Give them somewhere to nest with a bee brick or by making them a bee home.

For more ideas visit wildaboutgardens.org.uk for both our Wild Bee and Wild Lawn Action Pack.

