

Climate change heroes

Precious pollinators, plants and trees



One type of pollinator that we are buzzing about on our Cranfield campus is bees. We have our very own beehives and bee colony!

Don't forget, wasps, moths, flies, hoverflies and butterflies are pollinators too!



Why are bees important?

Bees are vital to pollinate plants, including some of our food crops. Loss of habitat is an issue that we are trying to help solve at our University.

How are we trying to help at Cranfield University?

We have lots of plots (areas of land) around our campus where we grow flowers for pollinating insects. Not only do they look beautiful (making it a lovely place for our staff and students!) but the bees and other pollinators love the source of nectar.

Each November, our staff, trained in beekeeping, harvest the honey and we even sell delicious jars of this honey in our campus shop.

What else are we doing?

We care a lot about protecting pollinating insects and habitats and we have a biodiversity action plan. This means that we: agree on actions to take, check that jobs are done, measure the success of our actions and plan what to do next.



We have created a woodland trail walk to help support wildlife diversity.

Britain has lost around 50% of its hedgehog population since 2000. In 2021 we signed up to be an official hedgehog friendly campus!



What can you do?

Now that you've watched our precious pollinators video and read about what we are doing, here are some ideas that you can try. Whatever time of year, you can come up with a plan to use land for planting and help protect pollinators and other diverse wildlife.

Don't worry if you don't have your own garden. Perhaps you have space for some plant pots, are able to access a communal garden, or land at your school or place of work?

At home

Create a pollinator patch in your garden

Seed packets are widely available from about £2. Or, for a donation, Friends of the Earth have a bee saver kit with seeds, a bee ID guide and other items.

Plan your planting

Enjoy watching your flowers grow and observe the bees and insects enjoying it!

In communal spaces

If you have access to a communal garden, talk to your neighbours and the owners about creating a biodiversity area.

At school

If you have a student council, raise this issue with them to discuss with your Head Teacher, but if not, perhaps talk to a teacher yourself and show them this leaflet.

Can you identify spaces around your school grounds (even small spaces for some plant pots) that could be used to grow flowers for pollinators, or to create a wildflower meadow?

If your school is lucky enough to have a sports field or other green space, is there room for some new trees?



What about starting a sunflower growing competition? Insects love them and you could see who can grow the tallest flower!



Can your school or place of work create their own biodiversity action plan?



Visit www.cranfield.ac.uk/engage for more resources.