

The North Pennines is one of England's most special places – a peaceful, unspoilt landscape with a rich history and vibrant natural beauty. In recognition of this it is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The area is also a Global Geopark – an accolade endorsed by UNESCO.

Sourcing plants and seeds

Bee-friendly gardening can be enjoyed on any budget. Here are a few ideas:

Garden centres and nurseries

Plants are often for sale when they are flowering, so let the bees choose for you. Simply put the plants that have lots of bumblebees feeding from them into your trolley.

Local growers of bee-friendly plants include:

Eggleston Hall Gardens
www.egglestonhallgardens.co.uk

Pennine Perennials
www.pennineperennials.co.uk

Mail-order plug plants

Available from a growing number of online shops. The plants are well established with a good root system, but small. You will often need to wait a year until they flower.

Seed packets

Only the 'annuals' will flower in their first year.

Propagation

Many bee-friendly plants can be split at the roots or take well from cuttings. Why not make friends with other bee-friendly gardeners and arrange seed and plant swaps?



Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another format.

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Gardening for Bumblebees

Top Tips for the North Pennines



Plant flowers of the same kind in groups or 'drifts'. Bumblebees like to stick to one type of flower whilst foraging, and can waste energy flying from place to place.

Grow a succession of plants that flower from spring to autumn, so there is always a supply of nectar and pollen.

Aim for at least two kinds of bee-friendly plant for each flowering period.

Avoid using pesticides in your garden.

Avoid flowers that produce little or no pollen and nectar. Plants like pansies and double begonias offer little for bumblebees and other pollinators.

Plant flowers that are simple in form, rather than double-flowered.

Most perennial herbs and traditional cottage-garden plants are ideal.

Leave part of the garden less intensively cultivated and more informal, to provide nesting sites. Some species nest in long, tussocky grass, others will create nests in undisturbed compost heaps, in walls or underneath hedges.

Grow a selection of flowers of different shapes, such as bowl-shaped, bell-shaped, 'lipped' and tubular. These will appeal to different species of bumblebee with different tongue lengths.

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 NORTH PENNINES One of the AONB family

Bees like all of these...

Winter Flowers November - February

- Crocus** *Crocus biflorus*, *C. tommasinianus*, *C. vernus*
- Daphne** *Daphne mezereum*
- Winter aconite** *Eranthis hyemalis*
- Ivy** *Hedera helix*
- Snowdrops - single flowered** *Galanthus nivalis*
- Hellebores** *Helleborus* spp.
- Honeysuckle - winter/spring flowering** *Lonicera* × *purpusii*
- Mahonia/Oregon grape** *Mahonia*, *Mahonia* × *media*
- Laurustinus/Viburnum** *Viburnum tinus*

Spring Flowers March - May

- Bugle** *Ajuga reptans*
- Aubretia** *Aubrieta deltoidea*
- Gold-dust alyssum** *Aurinia saxatilis*
- Barberry/Berberis** *Berberis darwinii*, *B. thunbergii*
- Elephant's ear** *Bergenia* spp.
- Cotoneaster** *Cotoneaster conspicuus*
- Wallflower/winter orchid** *Erysimum* spp.
- Snake's head fritillary** *Fritillaria meleagris*
- Hebe** *Hebe* spp. & cultivars
- Bluebell** *Hyacinthoides non scripta*
- Perennial candytuft** *Iberis sempervirens*
- Grape hyacinth** *Muscari* spp.
- Cowslip** *Primula veris*
- Primrose** *Primula vulgaris*
- Lungwort** *Pulmonaria* spp.
- Flowering currant** *Ribes sanguineum*
- Pussy willow** *Salix caprea*, *S. lanata*
- Skimmia** *Skimmia japonica*



Summer Flowers June - August

- Alliums** *Allium* spp.
- Snapdragon** *Antirrhinum majus*
- Columbine** *Aquilegia* spp.
- Butterfly bush** *Buddleja davidii*
- Heather & heaths** *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica* spp.
- Bellflowers** *Campanula* spp.
- Cornflowers & knapweeds** *Centaurea* spp.
- Thistles** *Cirsium* spp.
- Delphinium** *Delphinium* cultivars
- Foxglove** *Digitalis purpurea*
- Coneflower** *Echinacea purpurea*
- Globe thistle** *Echinops* spp.
- Sea holly** *Eryngium* spp.
- Joe Pye weed** *Eupatorium maculatum*
- Fuchsia** *Fuchsia* spp.
- Hardy geraniums/native cranesbills** *Geranium* spp.
- Rock rose** *Helianthemum* spp. & cultivars
- Sunflower - single-flowered forms** *Helianthus annuus*
- Field/macedonian scabious** *Knautia arvensis*, *K. macedonica*
- Sweet pea, annual & perennial** *Lathyrus latifolius*
- Lavender, English & French** *Lavandula angustifolia*, *L. stoechas*
- Mallow** *Lavatera* spp.
- Toadflax** *Linaria purpurea*, *L. vulgaris*
- Honeysuckle** *Lonicera* spp.
- Purple loosestrife** *Lythrum virgatum*, *L. salicaria*
- Forget-me-not** *Myosotis* spp.
- Catmint** *Nepeta* spp. & cultivars
- Field/opium poppy** *Papaver rhoeas*, *P. somniferum*
- Red bistort** *Persicaria amplexicaulis*
- Roses - simple-flowered forms** *Rosa* spp.
- Sages and clarys** *Salvia* spp. & cultivars
- Scabious** *Scabiosa* spp.
- Golden rod** *Solidago* spp. & cultivars
- Lamb's ears** *Stachys byzantine*
- Comfrey** *Symphytum officinale*
- Vervain** *Verbena* spp.
- Weigela** *Weigela florida*



Autumn Flowers September - October

- Japanese anemone** *Anemone hupehensis*, *A. hybrida*
- Perennial asters/michaelmas daisies** *Aster* spp. & cultivars
- Trailing bellflower** *Campanula poscharskyana*
- Chrysanthemum - simple flower forms** *Chrysanthemum* spp. & cultivars
- Autumn crocus** *Colchicum* spp.
- Autumn flowering crocus** *Crocus speciosus*
- Perennial sunflower** *Helianthus* × *laetiflorus*
- Ice plant** *Sedum spectabile*
- Stonecrops** *Sedum* spp.



Spring Edibles March - May

- Japanese quince** *Chaenomeles speciosa*, *Chaenomeles* × *superba*
- Crab apple and apple** *Malus* spp.
- Cherry, plum, damson, almond, blackthorn** *Prunus* spp.
- Pear** *Pyrus communis*
- Black/red/white currant & gooseberry** *Ribes* spp.



Summer Edibles June - August

- Chives, leeks, onions and garlics** *Allium* spp.
- Vegetable asparagus** *Asparagus officinalis*
- Borage** *Borago officinalis*
- Nepeta (lesser) catmint** *Calamintha nepeta*
- Marrow/courgette** *Cucurbita pepo*
- Globe artichoke and cardoon** *Cynara cardunculus* spp.
- Fennel** *Foeniculum vulgare*
- Strawberry** *Fragaria* × *ananassa*
- Hysopp** *Hyssopus officinalis*
- Lemon balm/bee balm** *Melissa officinalis*
- Garden mint** *Mentha spicata*
- Bergamot** *Monarda didyma*
- Majoram** *Origanum* spp.
- Runner bean, French bean** *Phaseolus* spp.
- Rosemary** *Rosmarinus officinalis*
- Edible blackberry** *Rubus fruticosus*
- Raspberry** *Rubus idaeus*
- Sages and clarys** *Salvia* spp. & cultivars
- Thymes** *Thymus* spp. & cultivars
- Broad bean** *Vicia faba*

