Bee on Board

with SIMPSONS

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Planting for bees with

SIMPSONS

#beeonboard

Seillean air bòrd

Why Bee on Board?

We are striving to promote the planting of bee and pollinator friendly habitats in home gardens, community spaces and schools, to help reduce the decline in the bee population, and increase the wildlife habitats. Joining us by Beeing on Board, will provide much needed steps in boosting the bee population in our communities.

Did you know?

According to the RSPB, 'one hectare (or twenty basketball courts) of UK wildflower meadows can contain 5.6 million wildflowers, which is enough nectar to feed 1.5 trillion bees per day.But since the 1930s we've lost 97% of our wildflower meadows in the UK - that's almost the entirety of this vital habitat gone in a single lifetime.'

Are you ready to Bee on Board?

Scan our QR code to sign up to 'Bee on Board' and collect your FREE seed packs in store.

BEE ON BOARD TODAY

How to get involved

We want as many people to Bee on Board with us on our bee friendly journey, whether that's at home, with your community groups or with your school. Joining us is simple, here's how you can 'Bee on Board' with Simpsons:

1. Simply sign up to our 'Bee on Board' Newsletter on the QR provided below:

2. Collect your FREE packet of seeds in store once you're signed up

3. Use this 'Bee on Board' pack to learn more about how vital bees are and how you can create a Bee friendly garden and more.

Make sure to keep us up to date with your Bee journey by tagging us in your photos or hashtagging

#beeonboard

Lets learn about the Bees?

There are over 270 bee species in the UK, ranging from the well known honey bee, to bumblebees and solitary bees. The pollination of bees is increasinly valuable to our UK farmers - it is estimated that it would cost them **£1.8 billion** a year to pollinate their crops manually if wild bees disappeared.

24

Bumblebee Species

Give a bee struggling a drop of

50/50

water/sugar

for a boost of energy, or gentle place on bee friendly fower

Just under 250

Solitary Bee Species

ONLY 1

Honeybee Species

Bee-rilliant Fun Facts

1 in 3

mouthfuls of our food depends on pollinators such as bees

Female **bumblebees** and **honey bees** are 'corbiculate' meaning they have **pollen baskets** to collect pollen on their hind legs

Bees In The Garden

How to encourage pollinators

1. Fill gardens with plants for pollinators

The RHS website have a great list of bee/pollinator friendly plants. As a general rule, you will be looking for nectar rich, open flowers. If you have a sunny spot in your garden, why not try and sow some wild flowers seeds.

Look out for these symbols on our plants in store

RHS PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS

2. Your lawn matters

Allow lawn ‘weeds’, such as dandelions, to flower by cutting less often. Providing both long and short grass areas provides a potential nesting site for many species of bees.

3. Build you own 'Wee Bug Bothy'

Provide nest sites for wild bees, check out our 'The Wee Bug Bothy' to see what you can use around your garden to create a safe nesting spot.

4. Provide a water source

Bees need to keep hydrated, you can do this by having a bird bath in your garden, and submerging a couple of stones for the bees to rest and reach the water.

5. Avoid using pesticides wherever possible

If you can please avoid using any harmful pestisides and never spray an open flower where a bee could be harmed.

Planting Bee Friendly

Ideally when looking for a bee-friendly plant, you will be looking for an open petalled flower - avoid plants with double or multi-petalled flowers as they are harder for the bees to access and may not have as much pollen as other varieties.

Here's a list of some of the best plants to have in your garden this spring and summer:

Hypericum	**Cistus**	**Iberis**
Lavender	**Scabious**	**Cornus**
Hebes	**Skimmia**	**Euphorbia**
Potentilla	**Erysimum**	**Viburnum**
Helleborus	**Ceanothus**	**Sunflowers**

Find out more on our 'Planting for Pollinators' blog by scanning the QR code below:

Did you know?
The Gaelic for Bees is Seillean (pronounced 'Shellan')

Bee Identification

This is a great bee identification check list - see how many you can find.

All bumblebees shown are worker bees

14-17mm

- [ ] Buff-tailed bumblebee

12-18mm

- [ ] Willoughby's leafcutter bee

11mm

- [ ] Red mason bee

10-16mm

- [ ] Tree bumblebee

12-18mm

- [ ] White-tailed bumblebee

13-14mm

- [ ] Red-tailed bumblebee

10mm

- [ ] Tawny mining bee

13mm

- [ ] Common carder bee

13mm

- [ ] Wool carder bee

14-15mm

- [ ] Hairy footed flower bee

Illustration: Corinne Welch © copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2017

These are just few of the 250+ species ofbee in the UK

Enter Our Competitions

Over the coming months we will be running competitions to help get as many schools, communities groups and individuals involved in planting Bee Friendly spaces.

The Friendliest Bee Garden

We are looking for the BEST Bee Friendly Garden! You don't have to have the biggest space to create the best bee friendly environment, all we are looking for is some fun and creative ways you have used your bee friendly plants to be in with the chance to **WIN £250 worth of vouchers** to spend in store. Here's how to enter:

1. **Make sure you're signed up to Bee on Board**

2. **Take LOTS of photos of your Bee Friendly Garden progress**

3. **Send your photos to us by emailing lucy@simpsonsgc.co.uk**

4. **A lucky winner will be chosen at random by the closing date stated on our website**

Visit our 'Bee on Board' page on our website to find out more about all the competition we are running. Additionally make sure to share your BEE JOURNEY with us by tagging us on Facebook/Instagram or using the hashtag #beeonboard