

Blackcurrant: wildflowers for crop pollinators

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Major UK pollinators of blackcurrant are likely to include:

Bees	<i>Andrena dorsata</i>	Short-fringed mining bee
	<i>Andrena haemorrhoa</i>	Early mining bee
	<i>Andrena flavipes</i>	Yellow-legged mining bee
	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>	Red-tailed bumblebee
	<i>Andrena fulva</i>	Tawny mining bee
	<i>Bombus terrestris</i> and <i>lucorum</i>	Buff-tailed and white-tailed bumblebees
Hoverflies	<i>Bombylius major</i>	Dark-edged beefly
	<i>Melanostoma mellinum</i>	Dumpy grass hoverfly
	<i>Syrphus ribesii</i>	Common banded hoverfly

See table to the right for a selection of wildflowers that can help support this crop's pollinators.

However, some wild plants are potential hosts of:

- a = melon-cotton aphid;
- b = Botrytis;
- c = European tarnished plant bug;
- f = cabbage stem flea beetle;
- g = common green capsid;
- o = ornate (violet) aphid;
- p = potato aphid;
- s = strawberry blossom weevil;
- t = tobacco thrips;
- v = Verticillium wilt



Consult seed companies for the species which best suit your growing conditions.



Perennials	Alsike Clover	<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	a,c,g
	Bird's-foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	
	Brown Knapweed	<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	
	Coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	o,p
	Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	c
	Dandelions	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	a,b,c,s,t
	Ground Ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	c
	Lesser Celandine	<i>Ficaria verna</i>	b
	Oxeye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	a,b,c
	Timothy Grass	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	
	Welsh Poppy	<i>Papaver cambricum</i>	o
	White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	b,c,g
	White Deadnettle	<i>Lamium album</i>	c
	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	b,c,o
Annuals	Bird's-eye Speedwell	<i>Veronica persica</i>	o,p
	Borage	<i>Borago officinale</i>	
	Field Forget-Me-Not	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	b,c
	Field Poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	c
	Red Deadnettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	c
Variable	Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>	c,t,v
	Groundsels	<i>Senecio spp.</i>	b,c,v
	Hawksbeards	<i>Crepis spp.</i>	c
	Hedge Mustard	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	c,f
	Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondyleum</i>	c
	Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	b,c,m

How these tables were compiled:

1. A literature search and assembly of published and unpublished data sets of insects recorded visiting this crop in the UK.
2. The insects were ranked by number of crop visits/visitors in each data set and aggregate weighted ranks were created that take into account the same insects dominating multiple data sets.
3. For each of these insects, data on their wildflower visit activity in the UK and wider north-western Europe was assembled using existing literature.
4. These data sets were ranked by frequency of interaction and aggregate ranks produced.
5. Plants were removed from the ranks if they were woody/trees, bulbs, not native or naturalised non-native.
6. A further literature search assembled a list of wildflower-pest and wildflower-disease associations for pests and pathogens of key UK crops, to highlight any plants that may carry pest/disease risk (however slight).

The BEESPOKE project (Benefitting Ecosystems through Evaluation of food Supplies for Pollination to Open up Knowledge for End users) aims to increase levels of pollinators and crop pollination at local and landscape scales by providing land managers and policy makers with new expertise, tools and financial knowledge to create more sustainable and resilient agroecosystems.

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