

## Beneficial insect promotion in allotment gardens

Wild bees, honey bees and other pollinators are indispensable for biodiversity. Without them, many plants would not bear fruit and form seeds. Around 80 percent of the plants that provide us with food are pollinated by insects. But about half of the native wild bee species are threatened.

Allotment gardeners throughout Germany make a significant contribution to the preservation of our ecosystem with their near-natural and species-rich gardens. In the small-scale and individually designed allotment gardens, pollinators and other insects find it easy to find sufficient food and shelter. Suitable nesting opportunities and a permanent supply of flowering plants are a basic prerequisite for pollinators to buzz out into the gardens and stay permanently. Numerous spring-flowering plants such as grape hyacinths and primroses, meadow plants such as dandelions and daisies, flowering herbs such as rosemary, oregano, lavender, mint and borage, unfilled roses, perennials such as coneflowers and coneflowers and, of course, fruit trees such as apple, pear and cherry trees as well as berry bushes provide the pollinators with nectar and pollen that are essential for survival.

Near-natural gardening and the basic knowledge of the biocoenosis of animals, insects and plants are the starting point for all measures to promote beneficial insects. In the approximately 901,000 allotment gardens in Germany that are organised under the umbrella of the BDG, nature-oriented gardening has long been part of good practice. The expert advice provided at club, federation and umbrella organisation level and the approximately 5 million allotment garden users make an important contribution to ensuring that allotment gardens remain true biodiversity hotspots in mostly densely populated and highly condensed urban areas.

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*Image: T. Wagner*

## Initiative "Feed the bees!"

For bees to thrive, it is important that they find enough food from spring to autumn and are protected from harmful environmental influences. Everyone can make a small contribution here. How? This is shown by the initiative "Feed the bees!" of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), which the Federal Association of German Garden Friends supports as a campaign partner. On the website [www.bienenfuettern.de](http://www.bienenfuettern.de), in the BMEL brochure "Bienenfreundliche Pflanzen" (Bee-friendly plants) and in the "Bienen füttern!" (Feed the bees!) flyer, bee lovers can find more information on the topic, helpful tips and a selection of bee-friendly plants.

More info at [www.bienenfuettern.de](http://www.bienenfuettern.de)

