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Pollinator Cafe and Butterfly Feeders



Attract butterflies and other pollinators to your garden or balcony by providing nectar rich flowers and home-made butterfly feeders.

POLLINATOR CAFE



Insects that feed on nectar and pollen are vital for pollinating many of our food crops. Tempt them into your garden so you can observe these amazing insects up close.

What you need

A selection of nectar-rich flower plants and seeds (examples include: heather, lavender, honeysuckle, and herbs such as mint and thyme), tin cans and other containers from the recycling bin, peat-free compost.

What you do

- Decorate cans and other containers with colourful paints.
- Carefully pierce holes in the bottom so water can drain.
- Fill the containers with peat-free compost and plant them with nectar-rich flowers. Try to provide nectar from spring right through to autumn with a good spread of flowering times.
- Place the plants in a sunny spot in the garden or on a balcony.
- Watch them grow, only watering when the soil is dry.
- Which pollinators come to feed? Look for different species of bumble bees and butterflies.
- Record the insects you see and which flowers they find

Safety tips

- Get adult help if handling sharp tools.
- Always wash your hands after handling soil.
- Always have an adult present when heating hot sugar.

MAKE A BUTTERFLY FEEDER



Provide a tasty snack to attract butterflies and other insects which feed on nectar.

Smoothie Recipe

Mash a banana with a fork. Add to a pan with 100g/4oz dark brown sugar and 200ml/7fl oz water. Gently bring to the boil, simmer until the mixture goes sticky. Leave to cool.

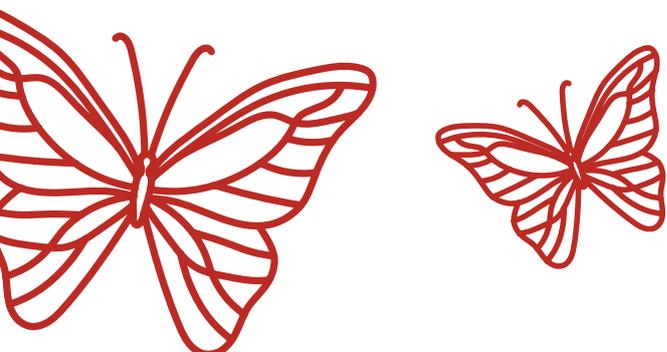
What you do

- Cut a paper plate into a butterfly or flower shape. Paint it in very bright colours.
- Fold tin foil to make a small dish. Stick this on the plate when the paint is dry.
- Add some delicious banana smoothie. Any leftovers can be eaten!
- Place your feeder in a garden or on a balcony near your pollinator cafe or other flowering plants.
- Watch and record which pollinators come to feed.
- Do different colours of plates attract different pollinators? What is their favourite colour?

SCIENCE*

- Pollinators are vital for agriculture; about one third of our food is pollinated by insects. [Learn more about pollinators.](#)
- Plants use colour to attract pollinators, which then fertilise the flowers while they feed on nectar. [Learn which colours attract insects most.](#)
- For ideas on the best plants for pollinators and how to garden for bumble bees, [click here.](#)

*Click the hyperlinked texts for useful resources and additional information.



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