Cherry: wildflowers for crop pollinators

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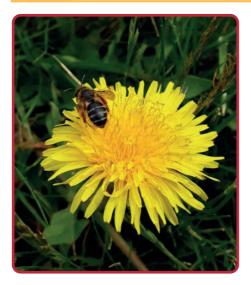




This guide was supported as part of BEESPOKE, an Interreg project supported by the North Sea Programme of the European Regional Development Fund of the European Union

Major UK pollinators of **cherry** are likely to include:

Bees	Bombus lapidarius	Red-tailed bumblebee
	Bombus terrestris and lucorum	Buff-tailed and white-tailed bumblebee
	Andrena cineraria	Ashy mining bee
	Andrena nitida	Grey-patched mining bee
	Andrena haemorrhoa	Early mining bee
	Andrena scotica	Chocolate mining bee
	Eupeodes luniger	Common spotted field
Hoverflies	Eristalis pertinax	Drone fly
	Syrphus ribesil	Common banded hoverfly



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.



A selection of wildflowers that attract and support **cherry** pollinators includes:

Perennials	Alsike Clover	Trifolium hybridum	a,c,g
	Bird's-foot Trefoil	Lotus corniculatus	
	Black Knapweed	Centaurea nigra	b,c
	Brown Knapweed	Centaurea jacea	
	Common Daisy	Bellis perennis	b
	Dandelions	Taraxacum officinale agg.	a,b,c,s,t
	Field Scabious	Knautia arvensis	
	Meadow Buttercup	Ranunculus acris	
	Oxeye Daisy	Leucanthemum vulgare	a,b,c
	Timothy Grass	Phleum pratense	
	Welsh Poppy	Papaver cambricum	0
	White Clover	Trifolium repens	b,c,g
Annuals	Field Poppy	Papaver rhoeas	с
	Grey Field-speedwell	Veronica polita	
	Borage	Borago officinale	
	Bird's-eye Speedwell	Veronica persica	o,p
	Bee Phacelia	Phacelia tanacetifolia	
Variable	Groundsels	Senecio spp.	b,c,v
	Hawksbeards	Crepis spp.	с
	Hedge Mustard	Sisymbrium officinale	c,f

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 A literature search and assembly of published and unpublished data sets of insects recorded visiting this crop in the UK.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.

For further information and other free guides visit: **northsearegion.eu/beespoke**

