



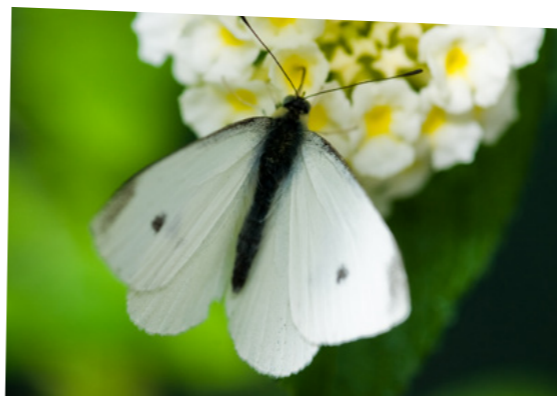
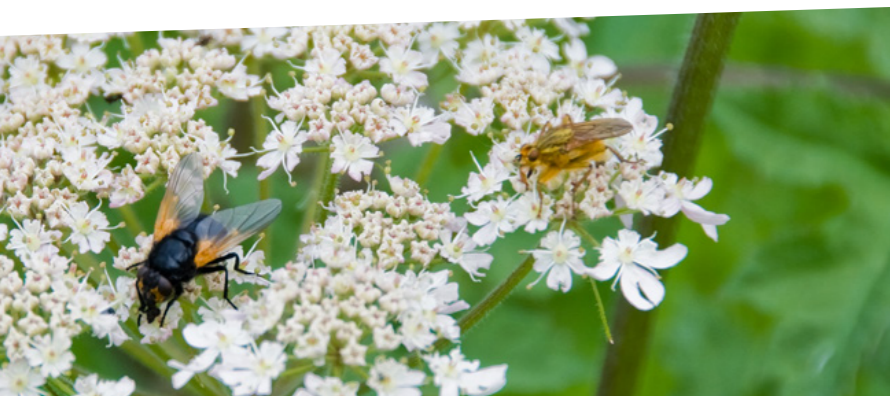
SOWING BEE-FRIENDLY PLANTS!

Plants become bee-friendly plants when they allow insects, including bees, to collect their nectar, pollen, or both. So we should really call them nectar- or pollen-bearing plants!

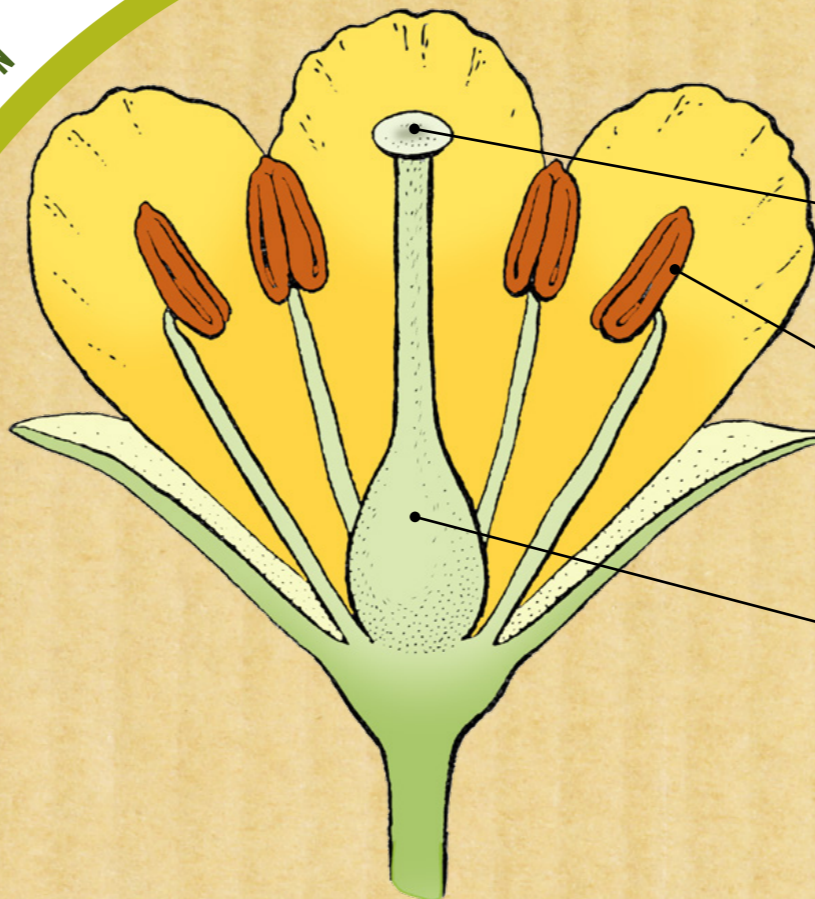
Regardless of the name, these plants attract pollinating insects. For example, when bees land on the flower, they part the petals, dip their heads inside and suck out the nectar, which they store in their crop or 'honey stomach'. At the same time, the hairs on their legs and body become covered with pollen from the plant. As they pay their visits all over town, they deposit tiny pollen grains on other flowers, which is how the plants fertilise one another. This is how plants have managed to survive for millions of years. Pollinating insects play a very important role in preserving biodiversity.

POLLINATING INSECTS IN ACTION

Flies, bees, butterflies, bumblebees, beetles.....



RECAP: POLLINATION



At the entrance to the pistil, stigma collect pollen.

Stamens produce the pollen.

The pistil is where seeds are formed after being fertilised by the pollen.

Pollination is how flowering plants reproduce. In order to reproduce, a pollen seed needs to be transported from the stamen (the male organ) to the stigma (the entrance to the female organ).

But what can you do when you have roots that nail you to the ground?!

Plants use what we call pollen carriers. And when it comes to transport, bees come out on top in every category!

WHY SOW BEE-FRIENDLY PLANTS?

The amount and diversity of pollinating insects strongly influence biodiversity – and vice versa. Fruit and seed production increases in gardens where there is greater diversity of plants and pollinators. Sowing bee-friendly plants helps plants reproduce and pollinating insects to survive.