

TREES AND Shrubs

It's not just garden flowers that help feed bees, trees and bushes are another very important food source.

Many trees and bushes produce flowers full of nectar and pollen that bees love. Because they are so big, they have masses of flowers to feed hungry bees, sometimes at times of the year when other plants don't have their flowers yet.



Top trees and shrubs for bees:

- **Goat willow:** an early bloomer, bees like the pollen-smothered catkins, which are the willow's flowers. It can be grown as a large tree or kept small by cutting it back every few years.
- **Oregon grape:** the cheerful yellow nectar-rich flowers of this bush attract bees like the buff-tailed bumblebee which is a busy bee spotted in winter.
- **Apple:** both crab apple and edible apple trees are great for bees, which help the tree produce fruit.
- **Honeysuckle:** climbing honeysuckle looks lovely the way it climbs up and over fences and walls. Its scented flowers attract long-tongued types of bumblebee in summer.
- **Ivy:** let ivy grow as high as it can and make flowers in late autumn. These are the main food for the ivy bee, a recent arrival to the UK.



Activity: Plant a small fruit tree

Small (or dwarf) fruit trees such as cherries, apples and pears have beautiful blossom in spring and can be grown in a pot or container in a sunny spot.

- Choose a container that is large enough to fit the roots and has drainage holes
- Plant up using a soil-based compost
- Water regularly and refresh the top layer of compost each spring



Top tip:

Don't forget to check how big the tree or bush will eventually grow so that it fits in your garden!