**Insectopia**

Insects pollinate flowers, add nutrients back into the soil, and protect plants and crops from problem pests. Take insects away, and not only will our gardens suffer, but our supermarket shelves will too!

*Help these vital critters by turning a corner of your garden or school into a bug paradise.*

**Create A Buzz**

Different bee species have evolved to suit different plants, so a successful bee garden should have a range of different shaped flowers.

Daffodils, lavender, snowdrops, dahlias, asters, foxgloves, and honey suckle will help attract a variety of bees into your garden all year round.

Early lawn weeds like dandelions provide vital pollen for bees who have just woken from hibernation. Try leaving a patch of uncut grass where these weeds can thrive.

**Build a Bug Hotel**

1. Build a structure from old wooden pallets.
2. Secure the pallets with string or wire.
3. Fill ‘rooms’ with natural recycled materials.

Corrugated cardboard rolled up and placed inside waterproof tubes for lacewings

Stones and tiles for amphibians

Loose bark and decaying wood for beetles, centipedes, spiders and woodlice

Hollow bamboo stems and holes drilled into bricks for solitary bees

Dry sticks for ladybirds

Dry leaves for invertebrates

**Bring Butterflies**

Plant patches of lavender, purple cornflowers and buddleia in a sunny, sheltered location and watch the butterflies’ flit between the flowers.

Flat stones will create resting places for butterflies to land, spread out their wings and soak up the sun.

You could also bury a shallow dish to the rim and fill it with wet sand and gravel to create a ‘puddling pool’ where butterflies will gather to absorb vital nutrients.

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