

Endangered species in the UK - insects



Insects are undervalued in our society, often regarded as pests. But they are very important. Not only as a source of food for bigger animals, but also as pollinators of flowers. Without insects we would have trouble to grow most fruit and vegetables. Stop and look a bit closer, they can be very beautiful.

What you can do

If you have a garden, plant flowers that bees and butterflies love, such as mint, thyme and lavender. Leave plenty of dead leaves and wood, insects love it.

done this

What schools can do

Schools could create a wildlife garden or leave strips of land for wild meadow flowers.

done this

Find out more

www.wildwoodtrust.org
www.wwf.org.uk
www.arkive.org

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Adonis Blue

A brilliant, sky-blue butterfly, found only on south facing downland slopes in southern England. It has declined since the 1950s, partly due to myxomatosis in rabbits, and inappropriate grazing. The caterpillars feed on Horseshoe Vetch. Since the recovery of the rabbit population in the last 20 years, the butterfly too has made some recovery.



Stag Beetle

This is our largest land beetle, it can reach a length of 75mm. The male has impressive stags antlers, while the female's jaws are just sharp pincers. Its larvae live for up to 4 years, feeding on decaying wood below ground. Gardeners are encouraged to leave rotting stumps and branches in the ground, and to be less tidy.

stick a
picture here



Field Cricket

The Field Cricket has declined through loss of habitat and now only occurs naturally in one population in West Sussex. It likes light sandy soil on sunny, south facing slopes. Males make a penetrating noise to mark their territory.



Noble Chafer

This beautiful metallic green beetle is most likely to be seen on warm summer days on the flowers of plants from the Parsley family such as Cow Parsley. It likes old orchards and open woodland where the larvae live in the decaying branches, mainly of old fruit trees. The removal of old orchards has led to serious decline.

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