

Encouraging Insects Into The Garden



During the summer my garden is teeming with insects on the plants I have chosen to be good for pollinators and other insects. The Red Admiral (left) is on a Spirea while the Escallonia (right) attracts bees and butterflies. Virtually all my plants have some value to wildlife.



My favourite shrub (left) is Photinia davidiana palette. As well as being the all time favourite for bees it has attractive variegated foliage and berries. It is related to Red Robin but is far more interesting.

If you have some night scented plants in the garden you will attract moths and bats. Honeysuckle (top right) is very good as are Summer Jasmine, Hesperis matronalis, Evening Primrose and Nicotiana. However my favourite is Verbena bonariensis (bottom right) which attracts butterflies, bees and the Hummingbird Hawk Moth shown opposite during the day and moths at night, especially on a warm summer evening. As well as the joy of the scent it is fascinating to watch the wildlife these plants attract.



You can also provide insect hotels (left) for the solitary bees to nest in and a south facing sandy bank for the mining bees. Providing wild flowers as food plants for caterpillars also helps. Last but by no means least, avoid pesticides as much as you can, ideally do not use

them at all and you will have plenty of insects to enjoy.