A GUIDE TO URBAN NATIVE POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PLANTS

DECISION TREE



Follow this flowchart to help plan appropriate flowers for your urban plot or window box

Does your plot receive direct sunlight?

YES

NO

Can you water regularly?

Is your soil well draining?

YES

NO

YES

NO

Focus on group A. Plants in B & C may be useful as buffers in particularly dry months.

Plants within group C should be easiest to maintain in this environment

Any from B & C can perform well in this environment. Some from A will not flower.

Try a mixture of groups B & D for damp tolerant plants.

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Get in touch!
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Each group is listed by small, grown-from-seed plants at the top towards larger whole-plants or cuttings at the bottom.

Planting times are autumn (August to October) or early spring (March to May), but beware of late frosts!

Plants marked with an * are flowers that require active management as they easily self-seed and spread.

GROUP A

Light-loving Plants

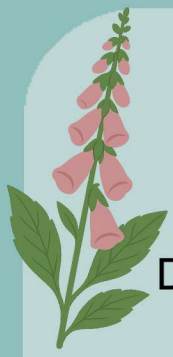
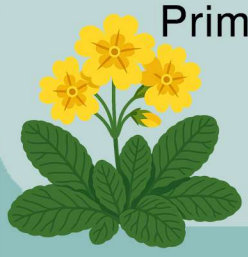





Daisies
Campions
Clovers
Poppies
Comfrey
Salvias
Yarrows (Achillea)
Marigolds (Calendula)
Sea Holly (Eryngium)*
Helianthemum
Dog-roses
Alliums

GROUP B

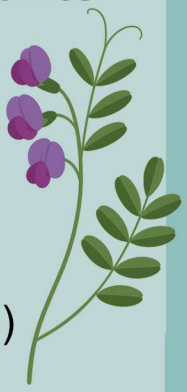
Sheltered Plants


Dead-nettles (Lamium)
Betony (Stachys)
Foxgloves* (Note: Risk to pets)
Wallflowers (Erysimum)
Primroses (Primula)

GROUP C

Drought-tolerant Plants


Vetch
Echinops
Lavender
Oxalis*
Stonecrop (Sedum)
Thyme
Heaths (Erica)

GROUP D

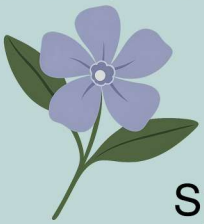
Damp-loving Plants






Valerian
Borage
Cardamine*
Lysimachia*
Meadowsweets
Sea Lavender (Limonium)
Ragged Robin
Yellow Iris*

CLASSIC & COLOURFUL


Violets and pansies (A)
Periwinkles/Vinca (A/B)
Common Bluebells (B)
Speedwells (Veronica)* (B/D)

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PLANT CARE FACTS!

When setting up a window box, it is important to consider drainage – boxes with water sitting at the bottom will cause roots to rot and plants to die!

Broken pottery or wine corks at the bottom of the box will allow water to seep through.

Plants can get sunburnt!

If you start seeing brown or yellow patches on the leaves of plants in direct sunlight, that may means it is getting too much sun and needs to be moved somewhere with lower light conditions.

Don't forget to prune plants!

If a flower has finished blooming, or a leaf looks wilted, cut them off using disinfected shears or scissors to allow the plant to focus its energy on new growth.

Not all plants grow in the same conditions.

For example, heather needs a more acidic soil and ideally should be planted in acidic (or ericaceous) compost. Planting it in normal compost means your heather won't survive!

Some fruit and vegetables can be grown even in small spaces, like windowboxes.

Examples of "mini crops" include lettuce, watercress, strawberries, baby carrots, and cherry tomatoes.

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