## Planting for Pollinators in Barnsley: A Beekeeper's Guide to a Buzzing Garden

Top Plants for Honey Bees (from <a href="https://www.rosybee.com/research-study">https://www.rosybee.com/research-study</a>):

The scores are average pollinators per square meter x weeks of flower

- 1. Calamintha nepeta 50.9
- 2. Origanum onites 46
- 3. Borage (SG) 44
- 4. Origanum vulgare subsp. Hirtum 41
- 5. Origanum vulgare 37.3
- 6. Helenium 'Sahin's Early Flowerer' 35.2
- 7. Helenium autumnale 34.9
- 8. Teucrium hircanicum 33.2
- 9. **Geranium rozanne 22.5** (although lower than others, not bad!)
- 10. Lavandula angustifolia 'Eidelweiss White' 25.2

Top 10 overall plants for pollinator generally (because any smart beekeeper and pollinator-friendly gardener should think about all pollenators:

Rank	Plant Name	Total Score	Honey Bee Score	Notes	
1	Calamintha nepeta	113.2	50.9	Win-win.	
2	Origanum vulgare subsp. Hirtum	103.1	41	Another powerhouse, great for bees and others.	
3	Geranium rozanne	87.1	22.5	Amazing for solitary bees, some honey bee appeal too.	
4	Lavandula angustifolia 'Eidelweiss White'	73.9	25.2	Strong bumble bee attraction, some honey bees too.	
5	Origanum onites	69.9	46	Superb for honey bees, decent overall.	
6	Echium vulgare	57.2	13.7	☑ Brilliant for bumble bees.	
7	Borage (SG)	57	44	🔀 Excellent honey bee score! Reliable favourite.	
8	Rudbeckia fulgida	56.2	6.7	Not much for honey bees, but fantastic for solitary bees and hoverflies.	
9	Origanum vulgare	55.3	37.3	Another good oregano! Very bee-friendly.	
10	Helenium autumnale	55.1	34.9	✓ Nice generalist, good honey bee score too.	

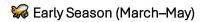
#### Summary:

- Calamintha nepeta and Origanum vulgare subsp. Hirtum are your absolute stars brilliant for everything, bees included.
- Geranium rozanne and Lavandula 'Eidelweiss' are solid for diversity.
- Origanum onites and Borage (SG) are honey bee favourites and still respectable all-rounders.
- Rudbeckia fulgida is brilliant for variety (hoverflies + solitary bees).



# Seasonal Spread Planting Plan

Based on the top pollinator plants, with extras for flow



You want to wake up those early honey bees and queen bumbles!

- Borage (SG) early flowering, self-seeds like mad, excellent for honey bees (blue star flowers, medium height)
- Calamintha nepeta early-mid, cloud of tiny flowers, silvery green foliage  $\bigcirc$  (soft white/pale lilac, low-medium height)
- Lavandula angustifolia 'Eidelweiss White' May, fragrant and elegant  $\heartsuit$  (compact-medium, white)

Bonus: Add a few early bulbs like Crocus and Allium for nectar boosts.

#### Mid-Season (June-July)

Peak time for all pollinators!

- Origanum vulgare subsp. Hirtum fantastic midsummer performer, aromatic, great bee plant (pinkmauve, low-medium)
- **Geranium rozanne** long flowering from early summer to autumn (trailing, violet-blue flowers, ground cover)
- Echium vulgare tall, architectural, bees adore it (bold blue, tall spikes)

Bonus: Add Nepeta 'Walker's Low' (catmint) for a soft haze and lots of bees.

### 🙀 Late Season (August–October)

Keep food going into autumn when stores matter!

- Origanum vulgare keeps going late, aromatic (mauve-pink, low-medium)
- Rudbeckia fulgida sunny golden daisies, loved by hoverflies (medium-tall)
- Helenium autumnale bright and late flowering (orange-gold, medium-tall)

**Bonus:** Add **Sedum spectabile** (Ice Plant) for late nectar and structure.

# Planting Heights & Colours

I've grouped them for structure and visual appeal:

Height Group	Plants	Flower Colour Palette
Tall / Architectural	JECNIUM VUlgare, Rudbeckia fulgida, Helenium autumnale	Blues, golds, oranges
Medium Height	Borage, Calamintha nepeta, Origanum vulgare subsp. Hirtum, Lavandula 'Eidelweiss', Sedum spectabile (bonus)	White, mauve, silver
Low / Groundcover	Geranium rozanne, Origanum vulgare	Purples, blues

#### Visual Flow Tip:

- Use **Geranium rozanne** as a pretty ground layer.
- Echo silvers and whites (*Calamintha*, *Lavender*) through the planting to cool the palette.
- Add pops of **gold/yellow** (*Rudbeckia*, *Helenium*) for warmth and late summer glow.
- Go big with **Echium** for drama!

## **Summary:**

- Seasonal coverage: From early spring to autumn
- ✓ Height variety: Structure and layers for garden interest
- Pollinator diversity: Honey bees, bumbles, solitary bees, hoverflies
- ✓ **Visual beauty:** Flowing complementary colours