



**Kent
Bat Group**

Conserving bats and their habitats since 1983.

Charity number 1079767

www.kentbatgroup.org.uk

Gardening for bats

All British bats eat insects and need a good supply of them. In a garden good for bats you will find flowers and trees which will support many insects throughout the year. The bat species most likely to visit gardens are very tiny so need small insects on which to feed. Larger species, like long-eared bats, will feed on larger insects like moths.

Plant your garden with a range of flowers to attract a diverse mix of insects throughout the year. A variety of flower shapes will support lots of different insects.

- The daisy family of plants produce flowers with many short florets which tiny insects can use
- Honeysuckle flowers have long tubes which long-tongued insects like moths feed on
- Herbs and aromatic flowers attract lots of insects
- Tall and/or pale flowers are readily visible to insects at dusk
- Single flowers are of more use than doubles
- Flat topped flowers like fennel, wild carrot and achillea provide good landing platforms for insects
- Native wildflowers generally support a wider range of insects than non-native ornamentals

Other features which will support a plentiful insect supply include ponds, boggy areas, log piles, compost heaps, dead-hedges and areas of uncut long grass. A hedge of mixed native trees and shrubs will not only provide many insects with ideal breeding spaces, but also the right environment for bats to forage, offering both food and shelter as they hunt.

It is very important that chemicals are not used. This includes artificial fertilisers as well as pesticides. **Never use sticky traps,** bats can get glued to these when trying to take the insects stuck to them.

Reduce or remove external lighting which can prevent or cause bats to delay emergence from their roost which reduces the amount of time they have to forage. Some bats species avoid areas with artificial lighting and this reduces the places they can feed and breaks up feeding corridors.

If you have a cat, please keep it indoors for an hour and a half around sunset and sunrise, bringing it in half an hour before the scheduled time, especially during the months of June to September. This website can tell you exactly when this will be each day. <https://www.timeanddate.com/sun/>

Further information about cats and bats can be found here
<https://www.bats.org.uk/about-bats/threats-to-bats/cat-attacks>