



NADCAA

Newton Abbot & District Co-Operative Allotment Association

BIO-DIVERSITY AND ALLOTMENTS

Allotments are used for growing fruit and vegetables but are increasingly important for improving the environment and health. They are great places for healthy exercise, socialising and helping to improve mental health as well as enjoying the surroundings and can have an important role in encouraging biodiversity by providing habitats to encourage a variety of plants, animals, insects and amphibians.

The 25% Biodiversity Rule

On NADCAA allotment fields up to 25% of an allotment plot can be used to promote biodiversity.

What is allowed and beneficial in the 25% allocated to bio-diversity?

- Flowers/other plants for bees and pollinators for all seasons
- A small pond
- Hedgehog house
- A small log shelter
- A bug hotel or box
- Bird/ bat boxes

What is not acceptable?

- Using more than a total of 25% of your allotment for wildlife rather than the main purpose of growing vegetables and fruit & flowers.
- Having any structure or plants on your allotment which impinges on neighbouring allotments by reason of contamination, weeds, shade.
- High clumps of weeds and grasses particularly pernicious weeds. Tall grasses can spread ticks and weeds can spread to neighbouring allotments.
- Using grass to cover 25% of your allotment.

Companion Planting

- Companion planting is one way to control pests e.g. planting onions with carrots can help stop carrot fly attacking the carrots. Some plants that have a strong smell e.g. garlic can exude chemicals that suppress pests. Some flowers can also be used in this way. Companion planting in cultivated areas will not be included as part of the 25% allocated to biodiversity.

NSALG Guidance

The National Allotment Society produce a useful leaflet on the promotion of wildlife on allotment plots. Copies may be downloaded from www.nsalg.org.uk or the NADCAA website at –

https://www.nsalg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/small_A5_Wildlife_230216_HiRes.pdf

Bio Diversity Areas - What to plant and how to manage them

<u>Good For</u>	<u>Plants</u>	<u>Hints and Tips</u>
Honeybees	Sunflowers, Comfrey, Centaurea, Willow, Catmint, Hellebores, Spring Blossom, Michaelmas Daisies, Heathers, Wallflowers	Avoid Double Flowers, the large petals often make the pollen and nectar inaccessible.
Bumblebees	Rosemary, Borage, Scabious, Foxgloves, Echinops, Lavender, Chives, Single Flowered Dahlias, Red Clover, Marjoram, Meadow Cranesbill, Cardoons, Viper's Bugloss, Single Flowered Roses, Lungwort, Flowering Currant, Winter Heather	
Butterflies Spring	Primroses, Sweet William, Native Bluebells, Bugle, Forget-Me-Not & Cuckoo Flower	
Butterflies Summer	Cornflower, French Marigold, Knapweed, Marjoram, scabious, Thistle, Purple Loosestrife, Hemp Agrimony, Herbs including Thyme, Lavender and Sage	
Butterflies Autumn	Flowering Ivy, Asters, Ice Plant, Buddleia and Verbena	
Top Larval Food Plants	Lady's Smock, Bird's Foot Trefoil, Fescue Grass, Holly, Ivy, Nasturtium, Yorkshire Fog Grass	
Dragonflies	Arrowhead, Black Eyed Susan, Meadow Sage, Swamp Milkweed, White Yarrow, Joe-Pye Weed, Pond Plants	Always have some rocks for them to sun themselves on.
Ladybirds	Angelica, Calendula, Caraway, Chives, Cilantro, Cosmos, Dill, Fennel, Feverfew, Marigold, Statice, Sweet Alyssum, Early Cabbage, Nasturtium, Radish	
Hoverflies	Achilleas, Ageratum, Apple Blossom, Calendulas, Fennel, Myrtle, Single Flowered Dahlias, Eupatorium, Heleniums, Michaelmas Daisies, Marsh Marigolds, Oriental Poppies, Knapweeds, Sweet Alyssum, Tagetes, Wild Carrots	