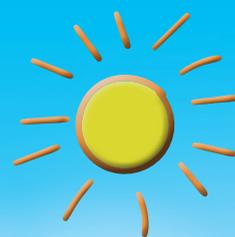


Improving school grounds for pollinators



The various information sheets included in the John Muir Pollinator Way schools pack tells you about pollinators, their habitat needs and ways to include feeding and shelter options for them. But, where do you start, and how to do identify what can be done in your own school grounds?

Firstly, you need to do a survey of your schools grounds, to find out what is already there. This doesn't have to be an in depth activity, and there is plenty of advice on what to do and how to do it in the Buglife B-lines school pack, and on the Polli:Nation Activities pages:

<https://www.buglife.org.uk/activities-for-you/children-and-schools/b-lines-school-pack>

<http://www.polli-nation.co.uk/activity/design-survey/>

<http://www.polli-nation.co.uk/activity/out-and-about-i-spy-habitat/>

<http://www.polli-nation.co.uk/activity/mapping-your-school-grounds/>

Once you have completed your survey, and produced the map or sketch identifying the existing structures and habitats, it's time to start planning what to improve, or change.

Start by identifying structures which can't be moved or removed, but could be enhanced. For example, tarmac areas which could have pots or tubs put on them; walls of fences which could have climbing plants or hanging baskets grown up them; or, patches of grass which can be allowed to grow into feeding habitat.

Also look for types of habitat described in the other information sheets that are missing from your grounds – are there places that these habitats could be created in?

Again, there are hints and tips on how to come up with a design, what improvements could be made to existing spaces, and how to create new habitats both in this pack, and on the Polli:Nation pages:

<http://www.polli-nation.co.uk/activity/our-school-grounds-designing-your-space/>

<http://www.polli-nation.co.uk/activity/our-school-grounds-improving-other-habitat-for-pollinators/>

<http://www.polli-nation.co.uk/activity/our-school-grounds-creating-habitat-for-pollinators/>

Some of the resources in this pack tell you about different plants suitable for different pollinators, but you might also want use the Pollinator Flash cards resource to work with a class to pick suitable plants for different areas:

<http://www.polli-nation.co.uk/activity/plants-for-pollinators/>

Also, it's important to think about the maintenance of the new habitats. Most require very little maintenance, but things will need to be done at certain points in the year to ensure that they stay pollinator friendly. The level and timing of maintenance may help you decide if you can include those habitats in your grounds or not. Some advice is given in the sheets in this pack, but you can download a yearly planner from Polli:Nation, along with advice on getting pupils and parents involved too:

<http://www.polli-nation.co.uk/activity/our-school-grounds-maintenance/>

