

Whether you like them or not, **dandelion blooms** are abundant this spring around the UK. I have never been able to see why somebody would despise these flowers as an ecologist who studies the insects that visit these blossoms that are so reminiscent of the sun.

Why do some people become dejected when they notice a dandelion growing through their garden's grass or the driveway's concrete? Most people consider dandelions to be "**weeds**" and will grab their lawnmower or, worse yet, a can of weed killer when one dares to poke its yellow head up near their home.

Maybe I'm weird for celebrating when I see dandelion heads sprouting on a street, grass or in a field. But I want to persuade you to adore these blooms as much as I do and to care for them like you would any other wildflower in a meadow since they provide excellent food for a variety of endangered bee species.

## **In The City, Flowers**

Urban areas and farms have grown across the UK over the past 50 years. The small areas that were set aside to support animals have deteriorated. We have pushed nature to its limit, yet it has learned to adapt, alter, and get through these challenges.

A transition in their wild, diversified diet to one dominated by dandelions, clover, and brambles has [been observed in studies](#) of bee feeding patterns in cities, where many of their native food sources have been replaced with concrete and tarmac.

**Bees buzzing** around an area where the variety of food alternatives continues to decline rely heavily on dandelion flowers for nectar and pollen. These plants flower from early spring through just before winter and provide food for bees all year long while requiring very little soil to flourish.

The form of dandelions blossoms is what makes them so effective in attracting a wide range of pollinators.

A dance between the altering floral forms and the corresponding length of bee tongues drives bee evolution. Others have evolved simple, open flowers so that anybody can gather pollen and nectar from them. Complicated flowers, like vanilla, have evolved such that only a specific kind of bee can pollinate them.

The second group of plants includes dandelions. You'd be surprised at the variety of people who come to a patch of dandelion blooms. In only ten minutes, I counted at least ten distinct species of bees and flies in my garden, including the common carder bee, a buff-tailed bumblebee, and a honeybee from one of my own hives that was diligently gathering pollen for the colony.

**Lack of food** is among the **most significant risks to pollinators**, along with **pesticides**, the degradation of nesting habitat, and invasive species. Dandelions that are extremely common can help close this gap, at least in terms of nectar.

The pollen from [dandelion plants](#) is not the best for bees, according to some scientists. According to research, it may have high concentrations of prolife, an essential amino acid that bees must obtain from diet because they are unable to produce it on their own, but low quantities of other amino acids like isoleucine and valine. A bee's capacity to expand, fend off illness, and nurture its young can be hampered by a diet deficient in certain nutrients.

But I would contend that in a world where bees are under stress due to a shortage of any food at all, any source that can flourish under the most trying circumstances, like dandelions, is something that is worthwhile to maintain.

## **Dandelions Dawn**

**As No Mow May** draws near, weeds should be left to grow in gardens as part of a Plant life charity initiative. Sadly, all of that beautiful wildflower habitat could be cleared and herbicide-sprayed towards the end of May.

In essence, manicured lawns are verdant deserts: they appear to be lush with vegetation yet lack anything to feed bees or other creatures.

Some people don't want a yard covered in wildflowers. Therefore, I advise attempting to set aside a patch for all time rather than dedicating the entire garden to nature for a month.

Dandelions are wonderful plants that, if given the chance, can thrive anywhere. They are an essential component of our ecology and must be protected since they represent a lifeline for pollinators that are in danger. Try to imagine yourself as a bee the next time you see a dandelion.