

Regular jobs



Watering

Watering your plants is really important to make sure that they grow and stay healthy. However, there are some things to think about when watering your bumblebee-friendly space that will help to keep your plants healthy and avoid wasting water.

- Only water plants **if they need extra water**. If it has been raining or the weather is not very warm or windy, your plants may not need much extra water. If the weather has been hot and dry, your plants may need more water.
- Try to water your plants **early in the morning or as late in the afternoon** as possible. This will avoid water being lost to evaporation.
- Water **directly onto the soil**, not the leaves of the plants. Plants use water through their roots, so getting the water into the soil, where the roots are, is the best way to get it to them.
- It is better to give plants a big drink every so often than lots of little drinks.



Removing unwanted plants

We try to avoid calling unwanted plants weeds, as these 'weeds' often provide lots of food for bumblebees and other pollinators. However, there may be some plants that appear in your bumblebee-friendly space that could compete with your plants and prevent them from growing as strongly. You can remove these, being careful not to damage your bumblebee-friendly plants. It is best to remove unwanted plants when they are small and do not have deep roots. If you do this job regularly, you should avoid any unwanted plants growing too large.



Deadheading

A plant's ultimate goal is to produce seeds, which can then grow into new plants. When a flower has been pollinated, the petals will die back and be replaced with a seed head. This process uses lots of the plant's energy and it will therefore produce fewer new flowers. If you remove any flowers that are starting to die back, the plant will not be able to produce seeds and will therefore put more energy into creating more flowers.

- Some plants, such as some alliums and sunflowers, only produce one flower and **no new ones will appear if you remove these**. Double check which flowers should be deadheaded and which should not.
- Towards the end of the summer it is important to allow some plants to produce seeds as this will allow **new plants to grow next year** and will provide food for other animals over the winter.
- Why not try collecting some seeds to grow new plants next year?



Bumblebee-friendly maintenance plan



School: Date:

Complete your bumblebee-friendly maintenance plan, adding **watering**, **removing unwanted plants**, and **deadheading**, along with any other jobs you think may help your bumblebee-friendly space to thrive.

Regular maintenance

What job needs to be done? e.g. watering	Who will do this job? e.g. Y7 Eco Club	When will this be done? e.g. Check every M/W/F

Longer-term planning

		Who will do this job? e.g. Y7 Eco Club	When will this be done? e.g. 2 May
 Spring	Tidy up your space		
	Plant seeds and potted plants		
	Add in your own jobs here...		
 Autumn / Winter	Plant bulbs		
	Collect seeds		
	Mulch		
	Add in your own jobs here...		