




Bumblebee-friendly planters

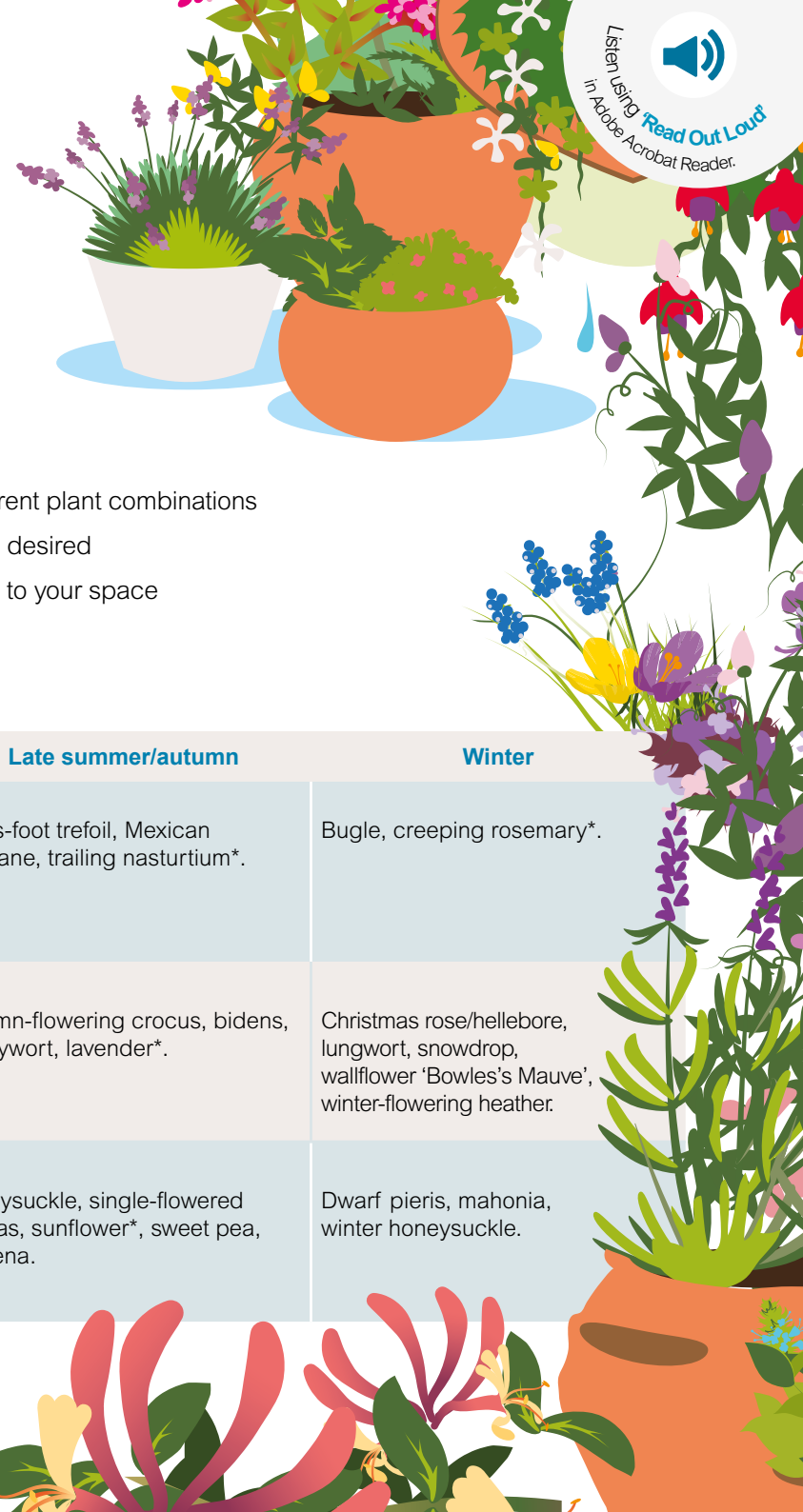
Bumblebee-friendly planters are ideal for renters and those with small outdoor spaces!

- add colour and interest to your outdoor areas
- provide food for hungry bumblebees throughout the seasons
- offer homegrown treats for you too, if you grow edible plants
- give freedom to experiment with different plant combinations
- can be moved from place to place as desired
- make gardening fun, easy and suited to your space

Seasonal planting ideas to get you started

	Spring/early summer	Summer	Late summer/autumn	Winter
 Spiller – will cascade over pot edges and trail. Perfect for window boxes, hanging or wall baskets.	Hardy geranium 'Ballerina', strawberry*, trailing bellflower.	Creeping stonecrop, kidney vetch, lesser trefoil, thyme*.	Bird's-foot trefoil, Mexican fleabane, trailing nasturtium*.	Bugle, creeping rosemary*.
 Filler – will fill out a container. Great for all containers.	Cowslip, grape hyacinth, meadow cranesbill, native primrose, spring-flowering crocus.	Border scabious, chives*, hebe, nasturtium*, oregano*.	Autumn-flowering crocus, bidens, honeywort, lavender*.	Christmas rose/hellebore, lungwort, snowdrop, wallflower 'Bowles's Mauve', winter-flowering heather.
 Pillar – will stand tall (might need support) or climb up a trellis.	Dwarf fruit shrub or tree: apple*, blueberry*, raspberry*, globe allium, Kilmarnock willow, tomato*.	Cosmos, foxgloves, giant bellflower, salvia, Sicilian honey garlic*.	Honeysuckle, single-flowered dahlias, sunflower*, sweet pea, verbenas.	Dwarf pieris, mahonia, winter honeysuckle.

*these plants have edible parts – perfect food for you and bumblebees!
Always check plant labels for full details and growing conditions





Preparation and care

Planters need a bit of preparation and care to help them look their best. Here's our list of top tips.



Pot feet. Raise your containers off the ground to help prevent waterlogging, improve airflow and prevent marking surfaces. Anything will do, from fancy bought ones to stones or recycled objects.



Drainage. Holes and crocks (stones, sticks or broken flowerpots) help rainwater drain away and compost stay in place.

Basket, pot or trough?! Choose what works for you. Get creative and upcycle some wellies, browse local shops and social media sites for secondhand bargains, or choose new planters that match your style.

Compost. Choose peat-free and organic. For deep pots you could fill the bottom third to half with biodegradable materials, like twigs and leaf mulch, first before adding compost. This helps your compost go further.



Water. When the top 2–3 cm of soil feels dry, gently wet the soil. To help reduce evaporation, water the soil rather than the plant and water in the morning or evening when it's cooler.

Mulch. Prevent unwanted plants (aka weeds) taking root and stop your containers drying out too quickly by adding a layer of bark, wood chippings, leaves or straw around plants.



Hooks. Choose hanging planters for walls and fences. Easy to remove hooks means you can move containers around and bring them down for watering if needed.

Trellis. Add a trellis to rectangular planters to give plants support as they grow. This is a perfect way to increase growing space for tall or climbing plants and provide you with shelter and privacy.

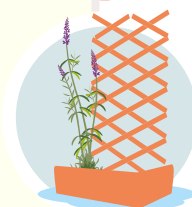


Photo: Kathryn Graves



Photo: Bea Cartwright



Photo: Helen King

For more planting ideas, check out our other Bee the Change resources at bumblebeeconservation.org/bee-the-change

