

WHO'S IN YOUR BACKYARD?

# Wild Pollinators



When we think of insects and flowers, we imagine a European honey bee walking all over the flower, collecting pollen and taking it back to their hive. This is where our honey comes from. These honey bees are easy to see, there's lots of them and they are easy to spot with their black and yellow bands.



**But what about all the rest?**

**Did you know, Australia has lots of wild pollinator insects?**

Many native insects contribute to pollination in crops and gardens all around the country. Some are social and live in hives or nests, just like the honey bees, but many live alone. Some can be big, while others are tiny. Some have a nasty sting, while many have no sting at all.

## WHAT IS POLLINATION?

Pollination occurs when pollen grains (male part) reach the stigma (female part) of the same species of plant. This is how plants reproduce. Most flowering plants (90 percent) depend on animals for pollination. Pollinating animals do the job for a reward – food!

# Pollinators in the garden

Go outside and explore your garden.  
What pollinating insects live in your backyard?

**STEP 1** Have a look at what wild pollinators could be living in your backyard by downloading the [Pollinator Insects Guide](#).

**STEP 2** Head out into your backyard and look for any insects that are hanging around plants with flowers. Take photos of them if you can as this can help you identify them later on.

*\*WARNING: do not touch insects only observe them as some insects have a nasty sting\**

**STEP 3** Using the RECORDING SHEET tally the number of different insects you are seeing. If you don't know their name, that's okay, just try to work out which group of insects they belong to. How many did you spot?

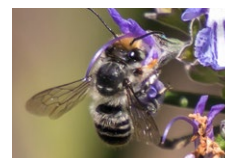
**STEP 4** Create an artwork of your favourite wild pollinator that you observed. This could be a painting, drawing or 3D model made from items in your backyard. With parent/guardian permission, submit a photo of your artwork to us and it will be displayed on the website.

[info@adventuresatyourplace.com.au](mailto:info@adventuresatyourplace.com.au)

## Pollinators to look for

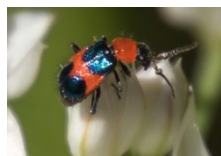
### BEES

European honey bee, Blue-banded, Leafcutter



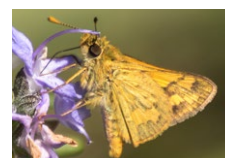
### BEETLES

Ladybird, Plague soldier beetle, Pollen beetle



### BUTTERFLIES OR MOTHS

Common grass blue, Cabbage white, Skipper



### FLIES

Hover fly, Drone fly, Blow fly



### WASPS

European wasp, Paper wasp



### OTHER

Ants



[wildpollinatorcount.com/resources/guide/](http://wildpollinatorcount.com/resources/guide/)

# Wild Pollinators RECORDING SHEET

Name: .....

Date: ..... Time: *The time you started your observation* .....

Location/address: .....

## SIGHTINGS

Pollinator category	Add your tally or notes here	Totals
<b>BEES</b> European honey bees, Blue-banded bees or other		
<b>BEETLES</b> Ladybird beetles or other		
<b>BUTTERFLIES or MOTHS</b> Cabbage white, Skipper or other		
<b>FLIES</b> Hoverflies or other		
<b>WASPS</b> European wasps or other		
<b>OTHER</b> Ants or unsure		
<b>TOTAL pollinators observed</b>		

## What do the totals tell me about pollinators in my backyard?

Your tally should show that there are more than just honey bees pollinating plants in your backyard. It's important that we take care of all of these insects that help our plants reproduce.

## How can I attract more pollinators to my backyard?

Flowering plants help attract pollinators and providing them with a home, such as a bee hotel, can keep them in your backyard. Native plants are great in attracting our wild pollinators.

You can use this tally to take part in the **Autumn Wild Pollinator Count 12-19 April**.  
Ask an adult to help you with the recording sheet found at:  
[wildpollinatorcount.com/submit-observations/](http://wildpollinatorcount.com/submit-observations/)