

DIY BUMBLEBEE CONSERVATION

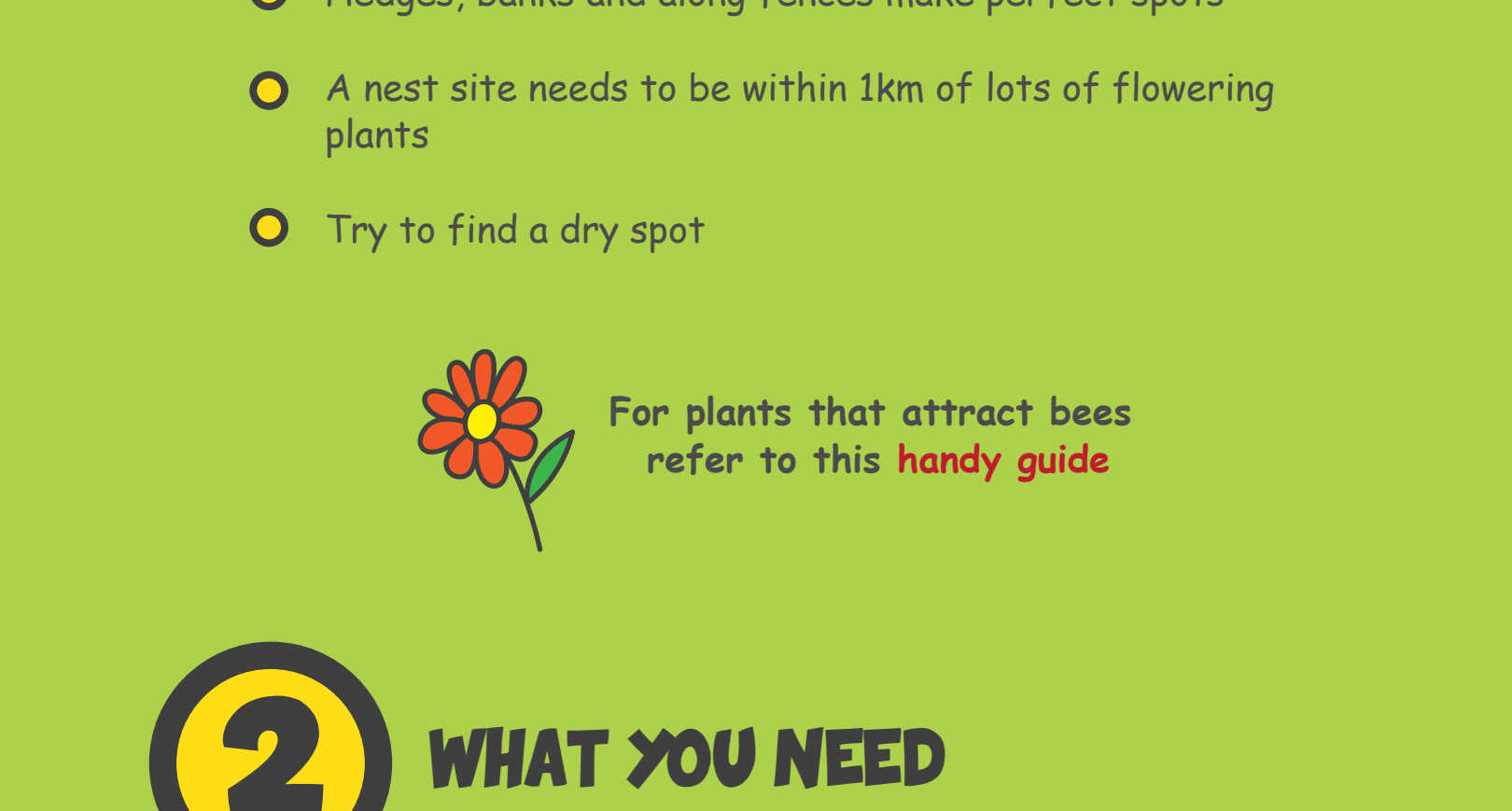


There are around **250 SPECIES** of bumblebee in the world with **24 SPECIES** found right here in the UK

Bumblebees are one of the most important pollinators in our garden, it's never been more important to conserve and build their habitats. Whilst flowering plants and a supply of nectar and pollen are the main attraction, somewhere suitable to build a nest is just as important, especially due to habitat loss in the natural countryside.

Now thanks to the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and Hartley Botanic you can learn to build your own nest site using readily available items.

1 LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!



- Bumblebees make their nests at ground level, Unlike the honey and solitary bee
- Find a shaded area, bumblebees don't make their nests in direct sunlight
- Hedges, banks and along fences make perfect spots
- A nest site needs to be within 1km of lots of flowering plants
- Try to find a dry spot



For plants that attract bees refer to this [handy guide](#)

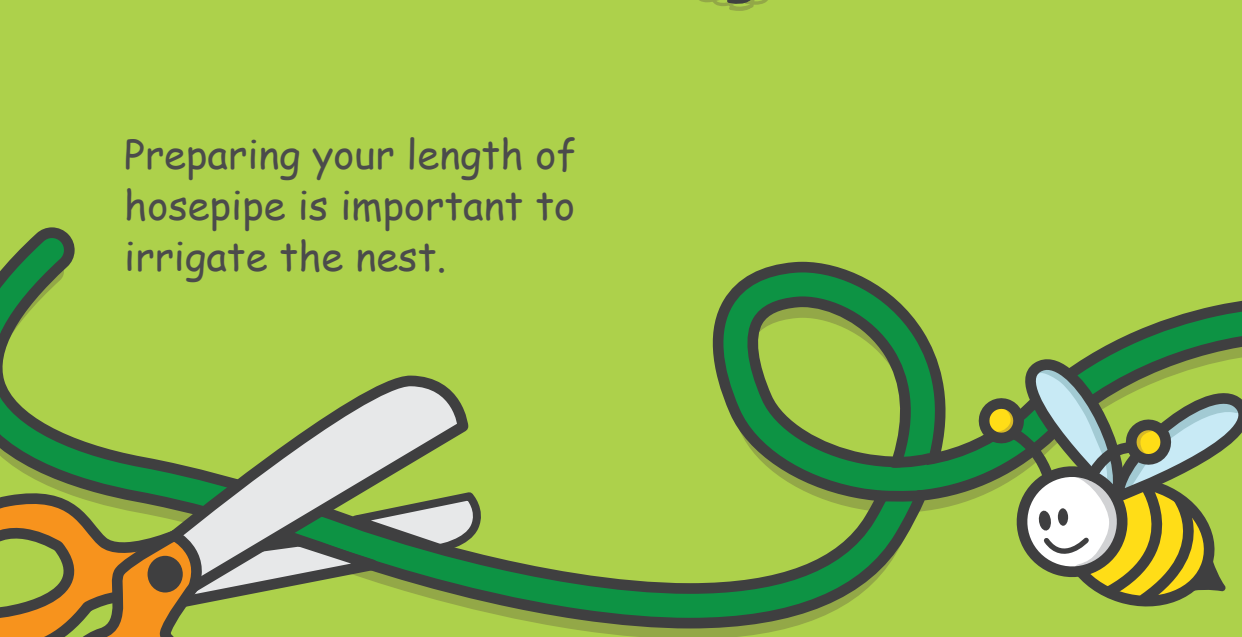
2 WHAT YOU NEED



- 1 Terracotta flowerpot (greater than 20cm in diameter)
- 2 Hosepipe (greater than 18mm in diameter and between 30-50cm long)
- 3 Piece of slate/tile or a matching tray for the flowerpot (this will act as a rain cover for the nest)
- 4 Handful of nesting material (ideally from an old mouse nest)
- 5 Square of chicken wire

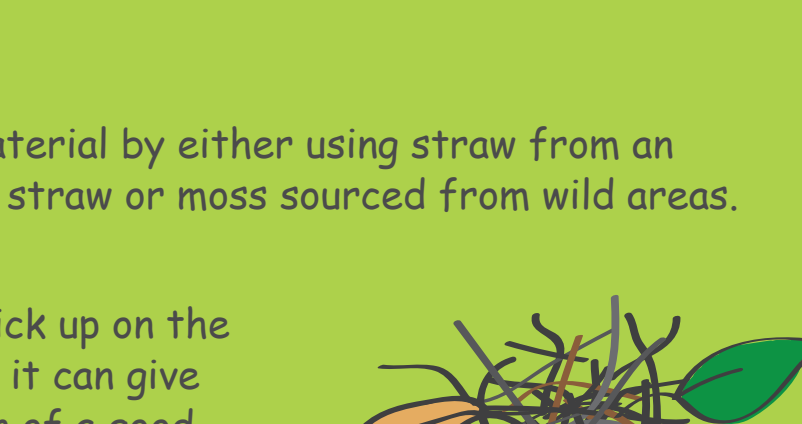
3 NEST CONSTRUCTION

Ensure the flowerpot contains holes to allow airflow. If it doesn't, drill some medium sized holes into the roof.



Create your chicken wire cradle, this will help to keep the main nest area, inside the pot, dry.

- Cut the square of chicken wire so that it almost covers the mouth of the pot
- Bend the corners down and under, so that the wire fits inside the pot



Preparing your length of hosepipe is important to irrigate the nest.



- Use a nail or skewer to pierce four or five holes into the underside of the hose
- Water passing through the hose should escape and leave the tunnel free for bumblebee access

Prepare the nesting material by either using straw from an existing mouse nest or straw or moss sourced from wild areas.

- The queen bees pick up on the scent of mice and it can give them an indication of a good nest site
- Alternatively dry moss mixed with rodent droppings can create the same effect

