

## Can you help to count pollinators?

Insects pollinate almost 90% of the world's flowering plants, but there is concern that pollinators are declining. The **UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme** has been set up to gather evidence to inform research and conservation of the insects that provide such an important service.

You can help by carrying out a **FIT Count (Flower-Insect Timed Count)**. Simply find a patch of one of our target types of flower and spend ten minutes counting all the insects that visit the flowers. We ask you to identify insects to group level (bumblebee, solitary bee, hoverfly, beetle etc.), and if you can't find one of our target flowers nearby you can use another flowering plant.

FIT Counts can be done at any time between the beginning of April and the end of September, as long as the weather is warm and not too windy. Regular counts at the same place (once a month or once a week etc.) are particularly useful, but one-off counts are needed as well, at any location.

All the information you need to join in the FIT Counts can be found here, including a recording form and guides to help you identify the flowers and insect groups:

- [www.ceh.ac.uk/pollinator-monitoring](http://www.ceh.ac.uk/pollinator-monitoring)

See also video guides at:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luTiPEJI8rQ> (how to do the FIT Count)
- <https://youtu.be/1Fm1KKiUC8Q> (insect groups guide)

Anyone can take part in the FIT Count, at any location where there are flowers and insects, so please do spread the word!