

MARK OFF EACH CARD AS YOU COLLECT THEM!



SPRING




WILLOW

They flower in early Spring. The flowers are called Catkins and they have lots of pollen and nectar – perfect for hungry bees waking up from hibernation!

SuperValu

SPRING




WHITETHORN

This is also known as the fairy tree and it is said to be very bad luck to cut it down. Whitethorn produces flowers for bees in Spring and berries for birds in Autumn.

SuperValu

SPRING




CRAB APPLE

It has pinkish flowers that bees love. Once they've been pollinated you get tiny little apples. They are too bitter to eat but you can use them to make apple jelly!

SuperValu

SPRING



DANDELION

They provide food for hungry bees in Spring. Let children tell the time in Summer, and then provide seeds for birds in Autumn!

SuperValu

SPRING



DEAD-NETTLES

It has bright orange pollen that bumblebees love. It flowers early in Spring when there isn't much food around. It's good to let it grow in your garden if you can.

SuperValu

SPRING




BERBERIS

It originally comes from South America – bees love it because it flowers in Spring when they are very hungry after waking up from hibernation!

SuperValu

SPRING



BROOM

This is a garden shrub with yellow flowers that smell like vanilla and has lots of pollen for bees. After it has been pollinated you get long seed pods that pop in the sun in Summer!

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SPRING



GRAPE HYACINTH

You can plant these bulbs in Autumn. In Spring they will produce lots of lovely purple flowers that look like a bunch of grapes! Bees will visit to collect their pollen.

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SPRING



VIBURNUM

It produces lots and lots of white flowers that bees love. Sometimes so many bumblebees will visit that it sounds like the whole shrub is buzzing!

SuperValu

SPRING




LUNGWORT

Bees love Lungwort because it has lots of nectar to give them energy. It is a great plant to have in the garden in Spring.

SuperValu

SPRING SUMMER



COMFREY

Comfrey flowers for a long time and is one of the very best plants for bees. Bumblebees especially love it!

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SPRING SUMMER



WALLFLOWER

Wallflowers are a great plant because they flower for a long time. They provide nectar and pollen for bumblebees and solitary bees.

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SPRING SUMMER



PHACELIA

The seeds grow very quickly and produce lovely purple flowers that honeybees and bumblebees love. The flowers have huge amounts of nectar!

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SPRING SUMMER



ROSEMARY

Rosemary begins flowering in Spring. Hungry queen bumblebees can often be seen feeding on it when they come out of hibernation. It is also very useful in cooking!

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SPRING AUTUMN



HEATHERS

The Spring and Autumn-flowering garden heathers are very popular with queen bumblebees!

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SPRING SUMMER AUTUMN



BORAGE

This herb is great for short-tongued bumblebees and honeybees. It will flower for a long time and provides lots of nectar. The petals can also be used to make salads more beautiful!

SuperValu

SUMMER




SELF-HEAL

Bees love this little purple wildflower. It grows in grassy places. In the old days people used it as a form of medicine.

SuperValu

SUMMER



OXEYE DAISY

This wild flower looks like a giant daisy. It has huge amounts of pollen and nectar. Solitary bees love it!

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SUMMER



ALLIUM

It is good to plant Allium bulbs in Autumn. By Summer, each one will have produced a big ball of purple flowers that bumblebees love.

SuperValu

SUMMER




SCABIOUS

These lovely blue garden flowers will provide lots of food for bumblebees and solitary bees.

SuperValu

SUMMER



LAMB'S-EAR

This plant is very hairy. It is the Wool-carder bees' favourite plant! It collects the hairs and brings them back to make its nest nice and cosy!

SuperValu

SUMMER



CALAMINT

This is an amazing plant for bumblebees. If you have it in your garden or school, you'll hear it buzzing as you pass by! It has lots of pale purple flowers that bees love.

SuperValu

SUMMER



LAVENDER

Everybody's favourite, including the bees! If you have Lavender in your garden, it will be buzzing with bumblebees in the Summer!

SuperValu

SUMMER



SUNFLOWERS

They produce huge flowers that attract many insects, including bumblebees and honeybees. In Autumn the seeds provide food for birds.

SuperValu

SUMMER



BIRD'S-FOOT-TREFOIL

This wildflower will brighten up most grassy places if you allow it to grow. It has very nutritious pollen and helps bees to stay healthy.

SuperValu

SUMMER



CLOVER

Clover is the little flower that adds colour to your lawn if you don't out the grass as often. You can get Red Clover and White Clover. Bees love both!

SuperValu

SUMMER



THYME

Thyme is a brilliant herb that provides food for bumblebees and honeybees. It also smells great and you can use it in cooking!

SuperValu

SUMMER



OREGANO

This herb is very easy to grow. Bumblebees and solitary bees love it and it is great for cooking!

SuperValu

AUTUMN




RUDBECKIA

This lovely yellow plant flowers in the Autumn and provides food that helps bees to fatten up before they go into hibernation.

SuperValu

AUTUMN



ASTER

This is a lovely plant that flowers well into the Autumn. It provides food that helps bees to fatten up before they go into hibernation.

SuperValu

AUTUMN



EUPATORIUM

This has large purple flowers. It provides food for all types of bees and is especially useful as it will flower late into the year.

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AUTUMN



KNAPWEED

If there was a prize for most nectar, this bright pink wildflower would win! It is a very important food source for bees in late Summer and Autumn.

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WINTER



MAHONIA

It is a very spiky shrub with bright yellow flowers that are full of nectar. It flowers in Winter and is an important garden food source for bumblebees who wake up early from hibernation.

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WINTER



CROCUS

Plant Crocus bulbs in the Autumn. The little flowers will pop up very early in the year and provide hungry bumblebee queens with lots of pollen when they come out of hibernation.

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MARK OFF EACH CARD AS YOU COLLECT THEM!



BUMBLEBEE




CUCKOO BUMBLEBEE

There are six different cuckoo bumblebees in Ireland. These cheeky bumblebees sneak into another bumblebee's nest and lay their eggs there instead of making their own nest!

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BUMBLEBEE



GARDEN BUMBLEBEE

It has three yellow stripes and a white tail. It looks just like the Heath bumblebee but has a long face and a very long tongue. Its long tongue helps it to drink nectar from flowers.

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BUMBLEBEE



HEATH BUMBLEBEE

It has three yellow stripes and a white tail. It looks just like the Garden bumblebee but has a short heart-shaped face and a short tongue.

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BUMBLEBEE



RED-TAILED BUMBLEBEE

It is all black with a bright red tail. Some people call it the red-bottomed bee! It loves to live in gardens.

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BUMBLEBEE



WHITE-TAILED BUMBLEBEE

Very common in Ireland. Did you know? Bumblebees have 4 wings that can beat up to 240 times a second!

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BUMBLEBEE



MOUNTAIN BUMBLEBEE

Lives high up in mountains. It likes to collect pollen from a plant called Bilberry to bring back to feed to the young bees in the nest. When Bilberry flowers have been pollinated by the bee you get delicious purple berries that you can eat!

SuperValu

BUMBLEBEE



LARGE CARDER BUMBLEBEE

It is a very fuzzy bumblebee! It will only live in places with lots of different flowers and it doesn't like to fly too far from its nest to find food. If you spot the Large Carder Bee in your school or garden it means that it is very pollinator friendly!

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BUMBLEBEE



COMMON CARDER BUMBLEBEE

This is Ireland's most common bumblebee. It is the last one to go into hibernation in the Autumn. You can still see it in October when most of the other bumblebees are already fast asleep for Winter.

SuperValu

BUMBLEBEE



TREE BUMBLEBEE

This bumble bee is unique because it likes to make its nest above ground in holes in trees or in empty bird boxes. In Ireland, all our other bumblebees prefer to make their nests on the surface of the ground hidden in long grass.

SuperValu

MINING SOLITARY BEE



GREY MINING BEE

This lovely solitary bee is common and can be spotted in Spring. It is black with two grey stripes. It nests by making tiny little burrows into bare soil.

SuperValu

MINING SOLITARY BEE



CLARKE'S MINING BEE

This solitary bee is a very fuzzy eater! The only thing it will feed on is Willow. Willow trees only flower in early spring, so as soon as it has finished flowering, this little bee goes back into hibernation until the following year.

SuperValu

MINING SOLITARY BEE



HEATHER MINING BEE

This bee only lives in bogs. It hibernates all the way from Autumn until the beginning of Summer and only appears from its nest when Heather begins to flower as this is its favourite food.

SuperValu

MINING SOLITARY BEE



EARLY MINING BEE

This bee is very common. It has a little red-tipped tail and is a brilliant pollinator of fruit trees and bushes. If you look very carefully you might spot it in your school or garden!

SuperValu

MINING SOLITARY BEE



COMMON MINI-MINING BEE

It is tiny. It's about the size of your little fingernail! It is completely black and looks like an ant with wings. It loves to feed on Dandelion.

SuperValu

MINING SOLITARY BEE



MARSHAM'S NOMAD BEE

This is a friendly little solitary bee that pretends to be a wasp so that other animals will be wary of it! You don't need to be afraid of bees. They are only interested in looking for flowers that have lots of pollen and nectar!

SuperValu

MINING SOLITARY BEE



FABRICIUS' NOMAD BEE

This bee has bright orange legs! It is very social and likes to nest close to its friends. Most other solitary bees prefer to nest on their own.

SuperValu

MINING SOLITARY BEE



ORANGE-LEGGED FURROW BEE

This bee has bright orange legs! It is very social and likes to nest close to its friends. Most other solitary bees prefer to nest on their own.

SuperValu

MINING SOLITARY BEE



NORTHERN COLLETES BEE

This solitary bee only lives at the beach. It makes a nest by burrowing into sand. Most of the Northern Colletes bees left in the whole world live in Ireland!

SuperValu

MINING SOLITARY BEE



SMOOTH-FACED FURROW-BEE

This bee is all black and looks like an ant with wings. Sometimes they are called sweat bees because some people say they are attracted to human sweat. It doesn't happen in Ireland, so they must not like the smell of Irish people!

SuperValu

MINING SOLITARY BEE



GEOFFROY'S BLOOD-BEE

Blood bees are black with a blood red stripe on their abdomen. It is strange to call them this, because unlike us, bees don't have any blood.

SuperValu

CAVITY NESTING SOLITARY BEE



BROWN-FOOTED LEAF-CUTTER BEE

This bee has a powerful jaw and cuts circles out of leaves or petals to bring back to line their nest. Leaf Cutter bees are unusual as they carry pollen on their hairy tummies!

SuperValu

CAVITY NESTING SOLITARY BEE



GOLD-FRINGED MASON BEE

This is a lovely little solitary bee. It lives only at the beach and makes its nest in empty snail shells!

SuperValu

CAVITY NESTING SOLITARY BEE



RED MASON BEE

This bee is a brilliant pollinator. Just one of these can do the pollination work of 100 honeybees!

SuperValu

CAVITY NESTING SOLITARY BEE



SHARP-TAILED BEE

This unusual bee has a very pointed tail. It is very rare and very shy - you'll be very lucky to spot one of these!

SuperValu

CAVITY NESTING SOLITARY BEE



HAIRY YELLOW-FACE BEE

This bee is tiny, it is about the size of your little fingernail. It doesn't carry pollen on its back legs like most bees, or on their hairy tummies like the leaf cutter bees. These little bees swallow pollen and regurgitate it back at their nest!

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CAVITY NESTING SOLITARY BEE



WOOL CARDER BEE

It loves hairy plants as they like to collect the hairs to bring back to make their nests warm and cosy!

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