

Pollinating insects

Diversity of pollinators



Bees – cultivated and wild



X 1000's species



Moths, flies and other insects



Outside UK



Mammals and birds

Vital for many fruits and vegetables



Ecosystem services

Encourages cross pollination and genetic diversity
(Increased crop resilience to disease and environment)



The honey bee alone provides **34% of the pollinator need** in the UK



EU annual value of crops reliant on pollinators is around **£20 billion**

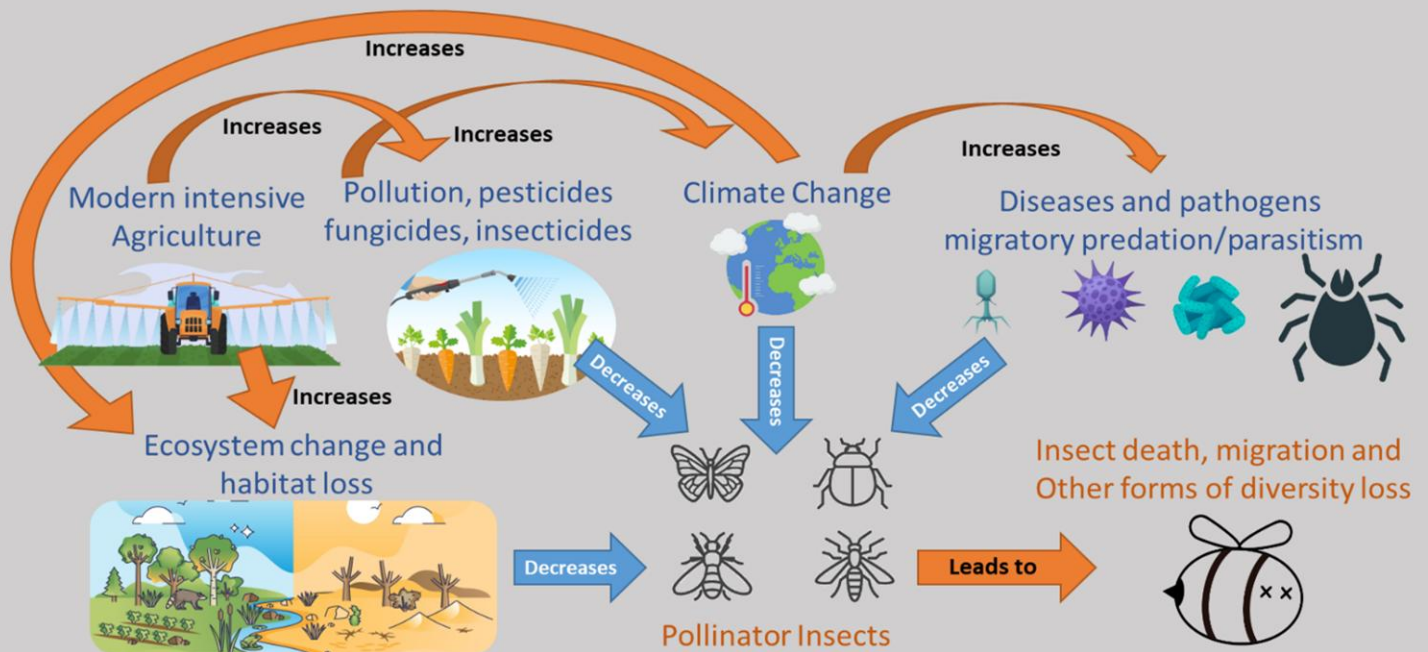
- Agriculture under 5% dependent on insects
- Agriculture 5 – 10% dependent on insects
- Agriculture 10 - 15% dependent on insects
- Agriculture 15 0 20 % dependent on insects



Along with birds insects pollinate **75% of food crops**

But what about interactions with agriculture

Many factors are leading to loss of pollinating insects and death of species



Top tips for boosting insect pollinators on farm!

Avoid

1. Large continuous fields of monoculture crops as these reduce diversity of food and habitats
2. Chemical spraying particularly with pesticides and particularly at key periods of the year (Flowering)
3. Plastic mulches which can restrict pollinator access to food supplies
4. Heavy tillage and intensive agricultural practices which can disrupt soil health and nesting habitats
5. Artificial lighting in accessible polytunnels and horticultural setups which change day-night cycles
6. Avoid excessive clearing of natural habitats such as fallen trees as nesting locations



Encourage

1. Increased plant species diversity and particularly legume crops for pollinator use and soil health
2. Retain residues from previous crops on fields for food and habitats such as in conservation tillage
3. Use integrated pest management to avoid chemicals
4. Use more native plants and ensure cover crops to provide year round pollination and habitat access
5. Plant wildflower boundaries with specific pollinator boosting seed mixes or encourage conservation of patches of unmanaged land
6. Incorporate more woodland, hedgerow and riparian buffers to provide more diversity of food and habitat

