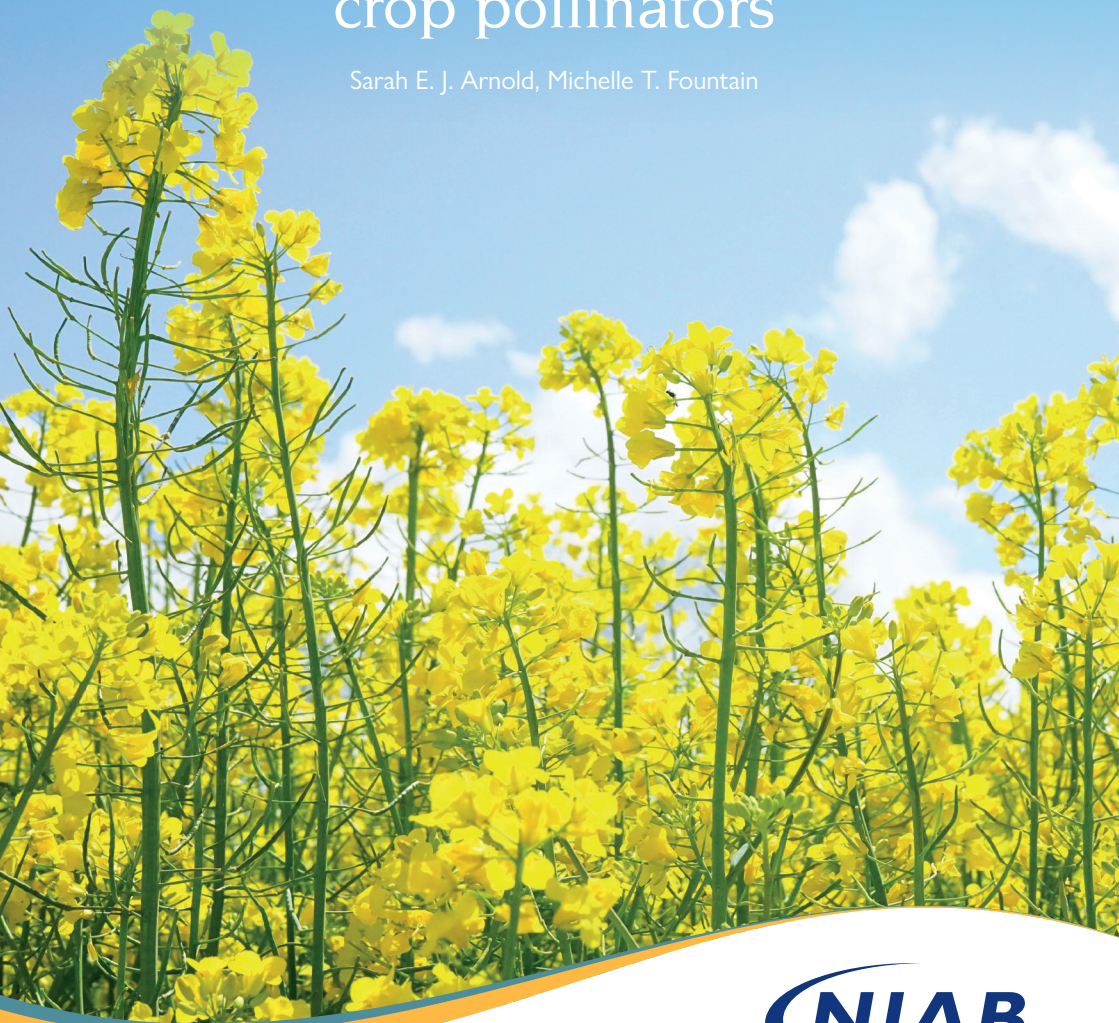


Oilseed rape: wildflowers for crop pollinators

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Major UK pollinators of oilseed rape are likely to include:

Bees	<i>Bombus terrestris</i> and <i>lucorum</i>	Buff-tailed and white-tailed bumblebees
	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>	Red-tailed bumblebee
	<i>Andrena scotica</i>	Chocolate mining bee
	<i>Andrena nigroaenea</i>	Buffish mining bee
	<i>Andrena cineraria</i>	Ashy mining bee
	<i>Andrena haemorrhoa</i>	Early mining bee
Hoverflies	<i>Platycheirus manicatus</i>	Grey-spotted boxer fly

See table to the right for a selection of wildflowers that can help support this crop's pollinators.

However, some wild plants are potential hosts of:

- a = melon-cotton aphid;
- b = Botrytis;
- c = European tarnished plant bug;
- f = cabbage stem flea beetle;
- g = common green capsid;
- o = ornate (violet) aphid;
- p = potato aphid;
- s = strawberry blossom weevil;
- t = tobacco thrips;
- v = Verticillium wilt



Consult seed companies for the species which best suit your growing conditions.



Perennials	Alsike Clover	<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	a,c,g
	Bird's-foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	
	Brown Knapweed	<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	
	Chicory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	b,c
	Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	c
	Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	
	Dandelions	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	a,b,c,s,t
	Field Scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	
	Greater Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	
	Hemlock Water Dropwort	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	
	Oxeye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	a,b,c
	Pot Marigold	<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	a
	Timothy Grass	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	
	Welsh Poppy	<i>Papaver cambricum</i>	o
	White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	b,c,g
Annuals	Field Poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	c
	Borage	<i>Borago officinale</i>	
	Bird's-eye Speedwell	<i>Veronica persica</i>	o,p
Variable	Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>	c,t,v
	Groundsels	<i>Senecio</i> spp.	b,c,v
	Hawksbeards	<i>Crepis</i> spp.	c
	Hedge Mustard	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	c,f
	Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondyleum</i>	c
	Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>	
	Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	

How these tables were compiled:

1. A literature search and assembly of published and unpublished data sets of insects recorded visiting this crop in the UK.
2. The insects were ranked by number of crop visits/visitors in each data set and aggregate weighted ranks were created that take into account the same insects dominating multiple data sets.
3. For each of these insects, data on their wildflower visit activity in the UK and wider north-western Europe was assembled using existing literature.
4. These data sets were ranked by frequency of interaction and aggregate ranks produced.
5. Plants were removed from the ranks if they were woody/trees, bulbs, not native or naturalised non-native.
6. A further literature search assembled a list of wildflower-pest and wildflower-disease associations for pests and pathogens of key UK crops, to highlight any plants that may carry pest/disease risk (however slight).

The BEESPOKE project (Benefitting Ecosystems through Evaluation of food Supplies for Pollination to Open up Knowledge for End users) aims to increase levels of pollinators and crop pollination at local and landscape scales by providing land managers and policy makers with new expertise, tools and financial knowledge to create more sustainable and resilient agroecosystems.

For further information and other free guides visit: northsearegion.eu/beespoke



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