Botanic Garden

Cambridge University Botanic Garden (CUBG) holds a collection of over 8,000 plant species from all over the world to facilitate teaching and research. The Garden provides resources including plant material, horticultural expertise and facilities to research workers and lecturers.

Since its foundation, however, the Garden has also provided a beautiful place for everybody to enjoy and benefit from – a series of wonderful landscapes through which to discover the drama of plant diversity.

Dementia Compass

This guide has been created through the Portals to the World programme, a partnership between the University of Cambridge Museums and Dementia Compass.

Dementia Compass is a social venture with over a decade of experience supporting individuals with Alzheimer's or other dementias and their families.

Dementia Compass builds and provides resources that reduce the impacts of dementia and to help people stay connected with who and what matters.

For more information visit Dementia Compass Website:
www.dementiacompass.com
Phone
07876 350 638
Email
hello@dementiacompass.com

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE MUSEUMS & BOTANIC GARDEN

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COMPASS

Why a garden walk?

Visiting a garden is a great opportunity to meet friends and have some exercise as you explore the plants.

How long will it take?

With time to stop and look, the walk should take you approximately 50 minutes.

How far is it?

It's approximately 600 steps.

Are there places to sit?

There are benches at regular intervals throughout the Garden and wheelchair accessible tables in most of the picnic areas.

What access support is there?

Manual Wheelchairs are available to borrow free of charge at both the Brookside Gate and Station Road Gate. These can be pre-booked by phone or email (see below).

There are accessible toilets behind the Glasshouses, in the Café, and at the Brookside Gate.

Trained assistance dogs are permitted to visit the Garden, when supporting a disabled handler.

Contact us:

E. enquiries@botanic.cam.ac.uk
T. 01223 336265

Cambridge University Botanic Garden

Garden Walk

Pollination stories

How flowering plants reproduce

Bee on a flower collecting pollen

This walk tells the story of how pollen is carried from flower to flower by insects, mammals, and the wind. This journey, known as pollination, leads to the creation of seeds and fruit, and with them, the possibility of new plant life

The Botanic Garden

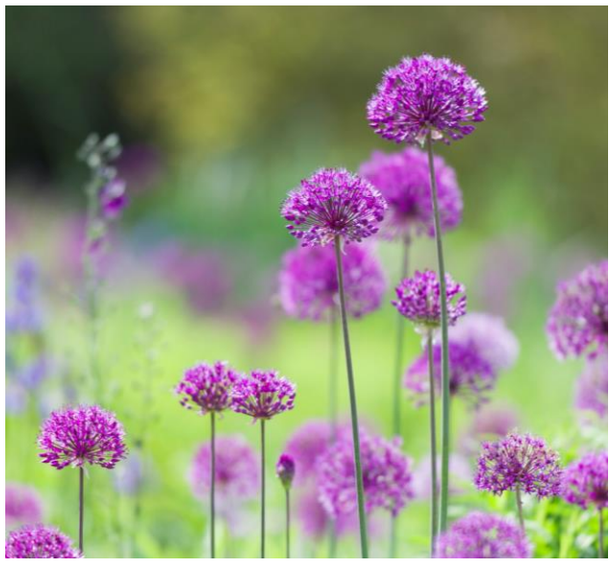
Entrance

Banksia 1

Banksias are originally from Australia and grow long flower spikes made up of hundreds of individual flowers.

The Banksia flowers are pollinated by tiny mammals called honey possums. Honey possums get most of their food from Banksia's nectar using their specially adapted brush-tipped tongues. As they feed, pollen collects on their snout, which they then transfer to other Banksia flowers.

Bee Borders 2



Bees collect nectar and pollen from flowers for food. Nectar provides energy, whilst pollen provides proteins. The pollen sticks to the bee's body or is stored in sacs on their legs.

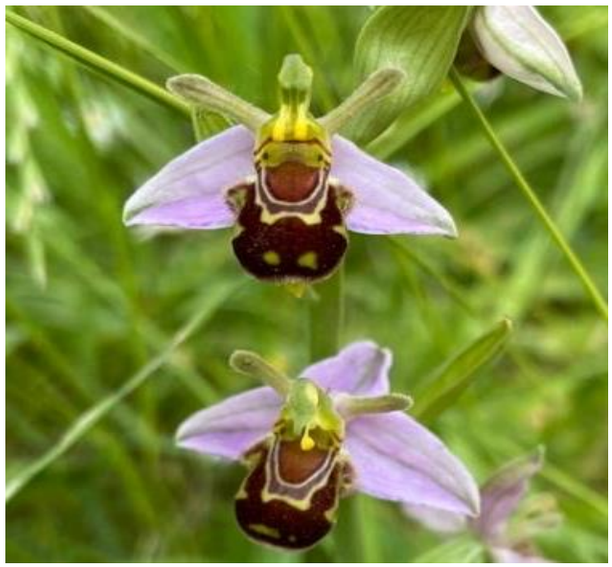
Flowers in the garden's Bee Borders are blues and purples as bees can see these colours best. Some flowers also have patterns on their petals called "nectar guides" that show bees where to go for pollination. These can be spots, stripes or bullseye patterns.

Grasses 3

Grass pollen is wind-dispersed, so grasses don't need colourful or scented flowers to attract insects. Their small flowers often lack petals.

To boost pollination chances, grasses produce lots of pollen. The stamen or pollen-producing parts sit on tall stalks to release pollen into the air, while the pistils or pollen-catching parts are long and feathery.

Bee orchid 4



Orchids are one of the largest flowering plant families in the world, with around 30,000 different species. Some of these species have evolved to attract a single species of pollinator.

The bee orchid uses a technique called mimicry to attract its pollinator. This plant has a large petal that looks like a female solitary bee. When the male bee tries to mate with the flower, pollen sticks to his body and then transfers to other flowers when he visits them.