

Appendix 4: Habitat enhancement for of bat populations

Planting to enhance a site for bats should aim to provide a habitat rich in insects, and with the potential for alternative roosting sites. The following are examples of plant species, which can be used where appropriate, to enhance a landscape for bats.

TREES AND SHRUBS (OF LOCAL PROVENANCE WHERE POSSIBLE)

Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>
Guelder Rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>
Hazel	<i>Coryllus avellana</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>

Night-scented flowers

As bats usually feed at dusk and dawn it is advantageous to use night-scented flowers which will attract moths and other night-flying insects.

Nottingham Catchfly	<i>Silene nutans</i>
Night -flowering Catchfly	<i>S. noctiflora</i>
Bladder Campion	<i>S. vulgaris</i>
Night-scented Stock	<i>Matthiola bicornis</i>
Dame's-violet	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>
Common Evening-primrose	<i>Oenothera biennis</i>
Soapwort	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>

Scented herbs

Chives	<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>
Sage	<i>Salvia officinalis</i>
Marjoram	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>
Borage	<i>Borago officinalis</i>
Mint	<i>Mentha</i> sp.

Climbers

Honeysuckle (native)	<i>L. periclymenum</i>
Traveller's-joys	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>
Dog-rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>
Sweet-briar	<i>R. rubiginosa</i>
Field-rose	<i>R. arvensis</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosos</i> agg.

Where reseeding is to take place the choice of a 'conservation mix' of grass seed would be preferential. The management of grassland areas as hay meadows, without use of herbicides/fertilisers and allowing the grass to go to seed prior to cutting is beneficial allowing larval stages of the insects to develop.

Source:

Bats in the garden by Shirley Thompson, 1989. School Garden Company. Spalding, Lincolnshire
Bat Conservation Trust leaflet 'Garden for Bats':

- Garden plants
- Native species

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