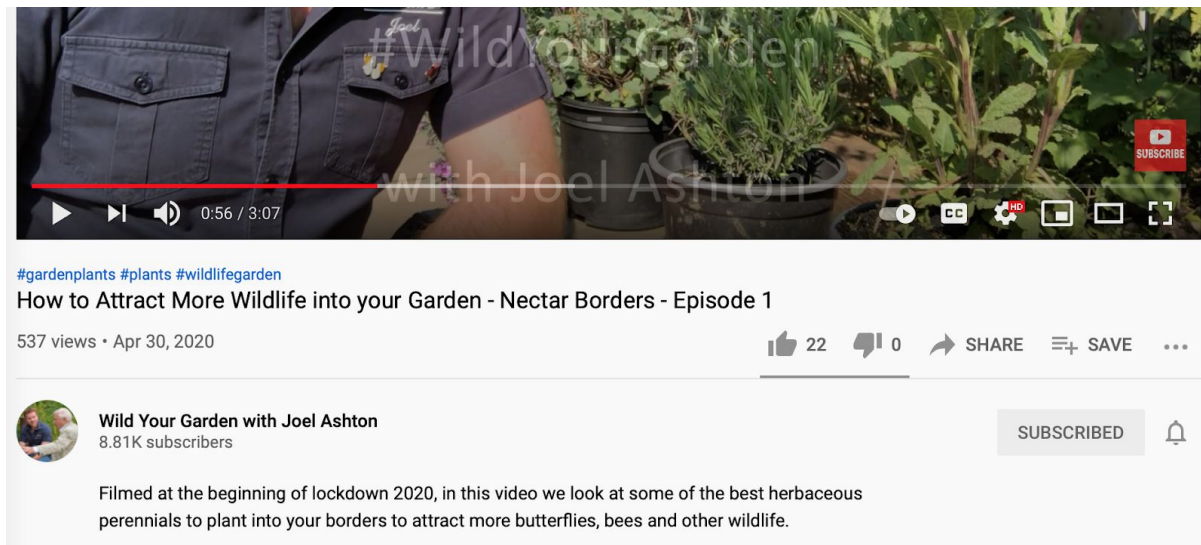


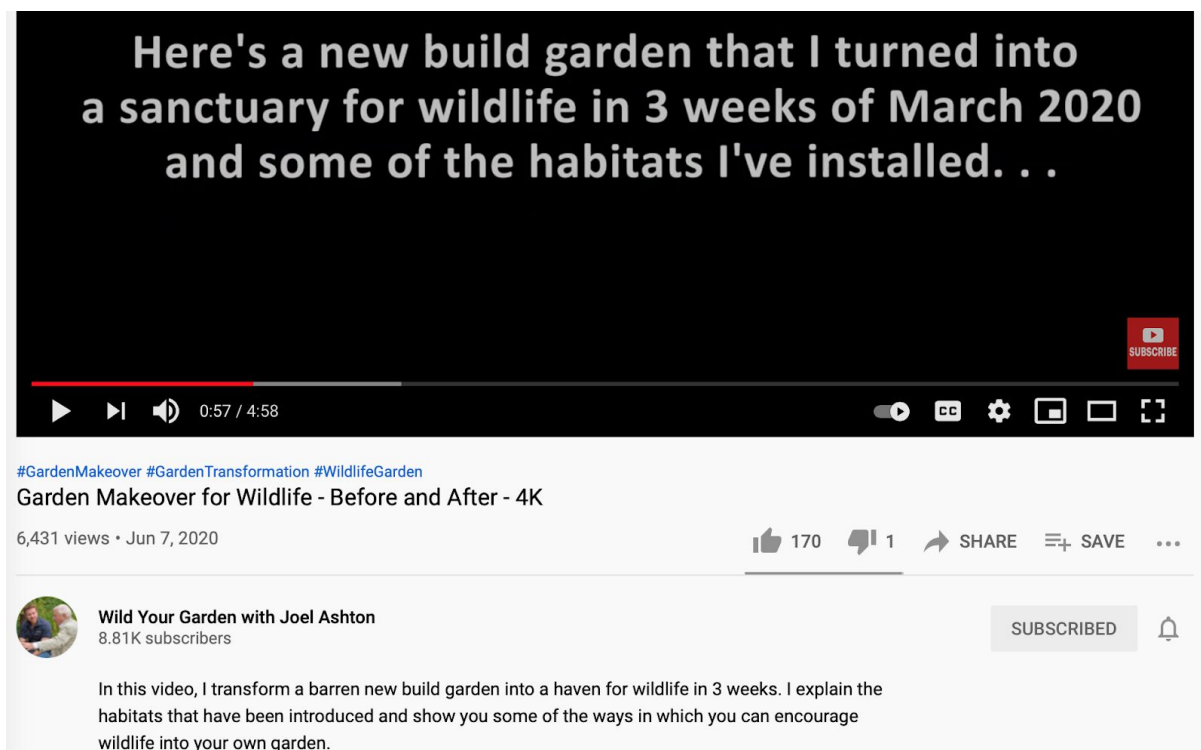
# Wildlife-Friendly Gardening

## Some Resources & General Guidance


In addition to many books, YouTube offers a great many resources and one of the best is a little series of videos from Joel Ashton. There are many of the series and if you go into Youtube and search for Joel Ashton 'how to wild your garden', you'll find much to help you on your way. Here are few examples, the covering the best herbaceous perennials for your borders for attracting butterflies, bees and other wildlife:



And here's one where he's transformed a new-build barren garden into a wildlife-friendly space:



And in another he shows you how to create a barrel pond:



#GardenPond #WildlifePond #BarrelPond

### How to Make a Wildlife Barrel Pond

15,647 views • May 11, 2020

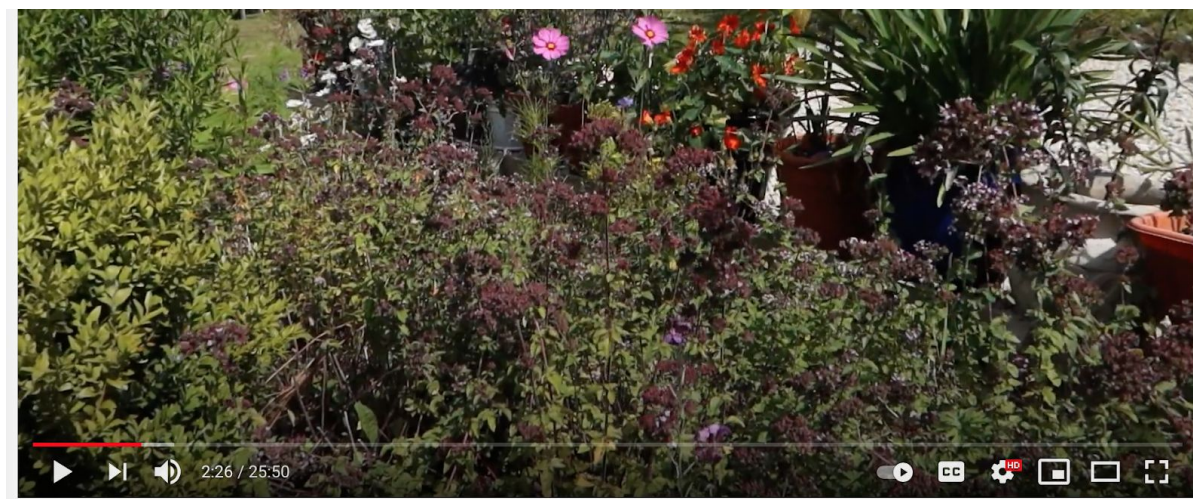
307 7 SHARE SAVE ...

**Wild Your Garden with Joel Ashton**  
8.81K subscribers

SUBSCRIBED

In this video we look at how simple it is to make a mini wildlife pond or wildlife barrel. We will look at the best plants to use, how to plant your pond and the best way to maintain it. We will also look at what animals you can expect to find visiting.

And here's Prof. Dave Goulson, author of 'The Garden Jungle' on a tour of his garden:



### Rewild your garden!

10,907 views • Aug 28, 2020

446 3 SHARE SAVE ...

**Dave Goulson**  
4.13K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

Come on a tour of my 'wild' garden, and get some ideas as to how you can invite nature into your patch.

## Books

I have a decent collection of books here should anyone wish to borrow them:

- 'The Garden Jungle: gardening to save the planet': Prof. Dave Goulson
- 'How to create an eco garden', John Walker
- 'Wildflowers', Sarah Raven . Essentially an encyclopaedia - this a brilliant resource for figuring out what will work best on your soil/environment.
- 'Making a wildflower meadow,; the definitive guide to grassland gardening', Pam Lewis (wish I'd had this when we first tackled our meadow!)
- 'Naturalistic planting design', Nigel Dunnett
- 'Cultivating Chaos: how to enrich landscapes with self-seeding plants', Jonas Reif, Christian Kress & Jürgen Becker

## Other Educational Resources

- Plantlife [www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk) (CB is a member and will have free, Heritage seeds to share)
- Garden Organic [www.gardenorganic.org.uk](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk) (CB is a member)
- The Soil Association [www.soilassociation.org](http://www.soilassociation.org) (CB is a member)

## Prof Dave Goulson: 'My Sixteen Favourite Garden Plants for Pollinators'

I have taken this list from his excellent book 'The Garden Jungle: Gardening to save the Planet', paperback, £9.99 and an excellent read). CB has added some comments. Prof. Goulson also observes ***"It seems intuitive that planting natives is better than planting non-natives, but I don't see any reason to get obsessive about it"***. But do avoid any kind of 'double bloom' as they have fewer anthers insects and bees find these very difficult to penetrate. Some of the plants on this list will also help moths, as will valerian, catmint, evening primrose, sweet rocket, jasmine & honeysuckle.

Do not cut back dead herbaceous growth in Autumn. Our propensity for tidiness removes the protection offered to caterpillars and moth pupae, along with spiders and all sorts of other beneficial creepy crawlies. Standing dead herbaceous matter looks stunning when frosted or sparkling with dewy cobwebs and the dead matter acts as root protection. I never 'took down' the borders at Bovey Cottage until mid/end of March, but did keep an eye on plants that were targeted for lifting and dividing as I wanted to deal with them before they started to get going again.

Name	Notes
Bush vetch ( <i>Vicia sepium</i> )	Member of pea family, native climbing perennial, small purple flowers (CB: they grow wild in our meadow)
Catmint ( <i>Nepeta racemose</i> )	Lilac flowers, <i>Nepeta</i> . <i>N. faassenii</i> 'Six Hills Giant' is great for long-tongued bees. Cottage Garden classic and cats also love it!
Plume thistle ( <i>Cirsium rivulare</i> 'Atropurpureum')	Great for male bumblebees in high summer. Not spiny but does spread and take over so needs management.
Comfrey ( <i>Symphytum officinale</i> 'Bocking 14')	Hardy perennial, tall (1.5m) so great at back of border, flowers May to August. Can also be chopped down regularly to make a great compost. CB: you can also soak it in water and let it break down to make a 'fertiliser' but be warned – it's smelly – so place the tub out of the way somewhere!
Dahlia 'Bishop of Ilandaff'	Deep red flowers from July. CB can vouch for this one. Needs lifting or mulching in winter if on heavy soil. Other dahlias are good but avoid 'cactus' or 'pompom' varieties or any other kind of plant with a double-headed flower; the bees can't access the pollen easily.
Field Scabious ( <i>Knautia arvensis</i> )	Many species available but this native one is good. CB; they grow wild in our meadow.
Meadow Cranesbill ( <i>Geranium pratense</i> )	Most hardy geraniums are great for bees. This is the typical wildflower meadow variety which CB has in the meadow. I also have 'Roxanne' in the small courtyard border; it tumbles well over raised beds and provides great ground cover on the flat. Doesn't like being in a pot. Purply blue flowers from July to first frost.
Giant Hyssop ( <i>Agastache foeniculum</i> 'Blackadder', Blue Fortune' & 'Blue Boa')	Needs well-drained soil so no good for our clay. Grows to about 1m with spikes of blue flowers in the summer.

Lavender ( <i>Lavendula</i> ; at Bovey Cottage we planted 200 of 'Hidcote' Blue' and they've lasted for 20 years with the correct pruning	Lavender is a tricky choice and needs good maintenance. Avoid Spanish lavender at all costs. English lavender is less attractive as a pollinator than French lavender but French isn't as hardy. We had 200 <i>L. angustifolia</i> 'Hidcote Blue' (English) planted at Bovey; they were alive with bees and lasted 20 years – but you need to sacrifice the second flowering and cut back hard in early August down to the second shoot. If you don't do this they'll get leggy. If you have lavender that's leggy, cut it to the second shoot, dig it up, make the hole deeper and re-plant to just below the base shoot – imagine it as a very large cutting. It should come back nicely. Good source is the National Lavender Collection down in Kent at <a href="http://www.downderry-nursery.co.uk">www.downderry-nursery.co.uk</a> (near Tonbridge). They also supply a large variety of Rosemary, a plant related to lavender.
Lungwort ( <i>Pulmonaria</i> ' Blue Ensign', 'Trevi Fountain'	Provides early spring nectar. Easy to grow and happy in semi shade or full sun.
Marjoram ( <i>Origanum vulgare</i> )	Easy, happy in pots or soil. Native. Avoid variegated and golden varieties. Does self-seed and needs some management.
Pussy Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> )	Native, growing to 10m+. Best to grow a male variety if possible as the males produce pollen and some nectar, whereas the female only produces nectar. Dwarf & weeping varieties available for smaller gardens.
Sicilian honey garlic ( <i>Allium siculum</i> – and all alliums are great as very accessible pollen)	Most alliums are attractive to pollinators but Prof. Goulsen recommends this as the best. CB can order wholesale (same applies with many other bulbs).
Sneezewort ( <i>Helenium</i> 'Moorheim Beauty')	This is the variety we had in abundance in the 'hot' border at Bovey. Gorgeous rust orange colour, keeps going if you dead-head. Ours were happy on free-draining sand but they won't be so happy in heavy clay.



Thyme ( <i>Thymus polytrichus</i> subsp. <i>Britannicus</i> )	Prof. Goulsen recommends this variety as the best for pollinators. A low-growing, rambling perennial that's happy in a pot or as ground cover.
Viper's bugloss ( <i>Echium vulgare</i> )	We had our first Viper's Bugloss in the meadow last year – a great result for us as it prefers sandy, free-draining soil. A lovely plant and I hope it managed to self-seed. Gets to about 1m and the flowers are a glorious blue, followed by an elegant seed pod.

In addition to summer flowering plants, try to provide a nectar source in early spring through the use of snowdrops, cyclamen, aconites and bluebells and in the Autumn, Michaelmas Daisies are great.

## Water & Waterside Plants

Do watch the videos listed earlier on Youtube. Joel Ashton does a specific video for creating a 'barrel pond' which doesn't need to be sunk into the earth. Here are some of Joel's suggestions and I've listed a couple of online suppliers and a local supplier. Most of the websites give guidance as to how many aquatic plants are needed for the size of the pond.

1. **'Emerging'** vegetation enables hatched creatures to crawl from the water up into the air. Plants include iris, rush and the fibre optic plant. Plant in a basket using aquatic compost to about 1" below the top of the basket then top off with about 5mm of grit to keep the compost in place. Create stacks or columns of bricks to raise the basket to about 2-8cm below the top of the barrel/pond.
2. **'Floating'** vegetation helps to keep the water cooler by providing shade and places for beasties to rest. Plants include lilies such as *Nymphae chromatella* (dwarf) and *Chromatella candida* for larger ponds. Broad-leaf pondweed is also good. These floating plants should cover 60-70% of the surface of the pond. Again, plant in baskets using aquatic compost topped off with grit and plant at the bottom or as directed by the label.
3. **Oxygenators** are vital to help larvae, eggs and small amphibians. Plants include spiked water-milfoil (*myriophyllum spicatum*) and hornwort - *ceratophyllum Demersum* - which is simply dropped into a barrel or pond after it's been planted and filled.

4. **Marginals** aren't relevant to barrel ponds unless they're sunk in the ground, these plants are for the 'water's edge' and include purple loosestrife, cuckoo flower, water mint, water avens, brooklime.

Make sure a proper pond has a route in and out for bumble bees (adept at falling in), newts, lizards and small birds. If you're creating a decent-sized pond this can be done by having a shallow 'beach' area and with barrel ponds, place a stick at an angle for beasts to climb up and down or perch on.

## Hoverfly Lagoons

Hoverflies love 'lagoons' which in the wild are small (often tiny) pockets of water held in the forked branches of old trees, in shattered tree stumps or any hollow or crevasse in wood where water collects. Once in existence, a miniature microcosm begins to form. You can create your own lagoon as follows but do place it in a secluded spot as they can smell.

- In the summer, take a small plastic container such as an icecream tub, the bottom half of a large plastic milk container or an old stainless steel saucepan (not copper or aluminium).
- Dig a hole and sink it into the ground or, place it on a tray and cover the tray with woodchips and/or dry leaves as this provides the emerging larvae with cover in which to turn into pupae.
- Place a decent amount of grass cuttings in the container and fill with ideally, rainwater, although tap water seems to work too. Place a couple of sticks in the tub and a couple against the tub, leaning them against the side of the container at an angle as this will help the larvae to climb up, out and then down.
- Leave it in peace. The grass cuttings will start to rot and create a goop which is attractive for the laying of hoverfly eggs. If you sift through the smelly goop in April/May, you may find clusters of white, elongated eggs, a little like very small grains of basmati rice. These will grow, sometimes up to 3cm in length. Once fully grown, these larvae will climb out and drop to the ground, finding nooks and crannies provided by your woodchip/leaf layer in which to turn into pupae.
- At the pupae stage you can - if you wish to observe the next process - transfer them to a jam jar with a little bit of woodchip/a few leaves in it. Place the pupae into the jamjar and leave on a north-facing windowsill and in a few weeks they will emerge into hoverflies.

## Organic Plant & Seed Suppliers

There are many organic suppliers but be careful of a web search, as this tends to bring up nurseries and garden centres that aren't necessarily organic. Most listed here will supply through mail or online ordering, although a couple don't.

In future, we need to consider the collection of seeds for seed swapping and also advise each other when we're lifting and dividing perennials so the 'excess' stock can be planted elsewhere rather than being disposed of. I managed to stock my son's garden with some fabulous ornamental grasses and Geranium 'Roxanne' this way and they're thriving to the point where we'll need to divide this year or next, so I'll keep you all posted as to what might be available.

### Delfland (online available)

A long-standing nursery that produces vegetable plug plants for farms, smallholders and allotment associations but also offers smaller quantities for gardeners. The nursery has held a Soil Association certificate for more than 20 years with all its mail-order plants grown in peat-free compost with the help of beneficial insects to control pests. For small orders, plants are removed from their growing trays or whole trays can be posted; boxes and filler are 100 per cent biodegradable. **Tel 01354 740553, [www.organicplants.co.uk](http://www.organicplants.co.uk) for small packs for gardeners, [delfland.co.uk](http://delfland.co.uk) for plants by the tray.**

### Edibleculture (no mail or online ordering, but Faversham isn't too far)

Working hard to pioneer innovation, [Edibleculture](http://Edibleculture) is proud to promote itself as a plastic-free champion. Plants are transferred to little cardboard sleeves called [POSIpots](http://POSIpots) for customers to take home.

Peat-free composts are available in a bag-for-life form, and a selection of seeds and feeds are sold by weight. Sprays and seaweed feeds are sold in returnable glass bottles and you're encouraged to write your own plastic-free plant label. The nursery offers a wide range of perennials, edibles, [fruit trees](#) and [house plants](#), all grown peat-and pesticide-free. **The Horticultural Unit, The Abbey School, Faversham, Kent ME13 8RZ. Tel 01795 537662, [edibleculture.co.uk](http://edibleculture.co.uk).** Open Monday to Saturday, 9am-5pm, Sundays and Bank Holidays, 10am-4pm. Note its seasonal schedule detailing what plants and stock is available when – see website or call for information.

### Edulis (mail order available)

Known for its excellent selection of rare plants, and plants for sustainable, edible food growing, Edulis is owned by Paul Barney, who trained in permaculture and organic farming systems and worked at the Centre for



Alternative Technology in Wales before setting up his own design and nursery business. Although Edulis is not certified organic, Paul runs the nursery with an environmental approach to include the re-use of pots, collection of rainwater for irrigation and use of biological controls.

**The Walled Garden, Tidmarsh Lane, Pangbourne, Berkshire RG8 8HT.**

**Tel 01635 578113/07802 812781, [edulis.co.uk](http://edulis.co.uk).** Mail order available. Open Tuesday to Wednesday, 11am-4pm. Or, by appointment. Check website for open days and events/shows Edulis is attending. Closed November to January.

**Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants (mail order available)**

When I re-designed the borders at Bovey Cottage, I bought 90% of the plants from Hardy's and can recommend them.

An award-winning nursery with a fantastic selection of plants that is now moving towards a more eco-friendly approach by using [biodegradable pots](#) and packaging for mail order, plus customers are encouraged to return plastic pots to the nursery for re-use. **Priory Lane Nursery, Freefolk Priors, Whitchurch, Hampshire RG28 7FA. Tel 01256 896533, [hardysplants.co.uk](http://hardysplants.co.uk).** Mail order available. Opening times vary through the year, please check before travel.

**Jekka's (can order online but you have to collect)**

Home to the largest collection of culinary herbs in the UK, Jekka McVicar's herb farm was established more than 30 years ago as a resource for herbs for food, health and well-being. Throughout that time, plants have always been raised using vegan and peat-free composts, and with organic and sustainable principles that promote biodiversity and a natural ecosystem, to encourage as many insect pollinators as possible.

Soil is replenished with bio fungus and plants fed with liquid seaweed.

**Rose Cottage, Shellards Lane, Alveston, Bristol BS35 3SY. Tel 01454 418878, [jekkas.com](http://jekkas.com).** Herbs available to buy online and then collected from farm – or purchased at open days or masterclasses, see website for calendar of events.

**John Cullen Gardens (mail order available)**

Based in rural Lincolnshire, this nursery specialises in scented and edible plants, and plants for pollinators, so good to know that the nursery is chemical free with no neonicotinoids used on its plants. It creates its own mulch from food and plant waste and harvests its own rainwater. Black plastic pots are being replaced by recyclable taupe pots and no single-use plastics are used in packaging. As an added touch all the regular clippings from the nursery's herbs are dried for its own teas and pot pourri mixes.

**Eagle Lodge, Archers Lane, Algakirk, Lincolnshire PE20 2AG, Tel 01205 460567, [johncullengardens.com](http://johncullengardens.com).** Mail order available. Nursery open by appointment Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm, or see at garden shows and events.

**Lovain Nurseries, Peacehaven (no mail order or online, you have to visit).** Soil Association certified, large range of plants, seeds, vegetables etc.  
**66 Telscombe Road, Peacehaven, E. Sussex BN10 7UB**  
[www.louvainnurseries.co.uk](http://www.louvainnurseries.co.uk)

### **Organic Bulbs Ltd (online available)**

Small but perfectly formed selection chosen by designers Lulu Urquhart and Adam Hunt. All bulbs have been grown without chemicals or pesticides and have been chosen as suitable for naturalising, and with the aim of extending the flowering season to benefit insects as early in the season as possible and later in the season to provide a seamless transition.  
**Tel 01373 888720, [organicbulbs.com](http://organicbulbs.com).**

### **Organic Gardening Catalogue**

Extensive catalogue of organic gardening supplies available to view via printed catalogue or online. The company has been selling seed suitable for organic growing for more than 50 years, offering both organic and non-organic seeds – in this case non-organic means the seeds have come from plants grown by a non-organic grower, but will not have been treated or coated with chemicals. None of its offerings are from genetically modified seed or plant material. Also sells organic composts, pest controls and other gardening supplies. **Tel 0344 967 0330, [organiccatalogue.com](http://organiccatalogue.com).**

### **Peat Free Plants (mail order and online shopping available)**

A small, family-run nursery, certified organic by the Soil Association and offering herbaceous perennials, alpines, bulbs and its own organic compost for sale on site or via mail order. All plants are grown in organic, peat-free compost and many have been raised from the nursery's own organic stock (any plants that are not organic will not have the SA certificate). No artificial chemicals are used and packaging is re-used or recycled wherever possible, or from plastic-free options.

**Peat Free Plants, Caves Folly Nurseries, Evendine Lane, Colwall, Worcestershire WR13 6DX. Tel 01684 540631, [peatfreeplants.org.uk](http://peatfreeplants.org.uk).**  
Open Thursday to Saturday, 10am-5pm, from March to early October.

### **Penlan Perennials (mail order available)**

All the plants from this nursery in west Wales are grown in peat-free soil to organic standards. The nursery specialises in hardy geraniums and ferns, as well as plants for woodland shade and moisture-loving plants, and it also stocks a good selection of cottage garden favourites. Plus, being

'hard-grown' outside, all plants are ready for planting out in the garden, and tried and tested as hardy. **Landre, Drefach, Llanybydder, Ceredigion SA40 9YD. Tel 01570 480097/07984 880241, [penlanperennials.co.uk](http://penlanperennials.co.uk).** Mail order available. Open by appointment Fridays, 1-6pm, Saturday to Sunday, 10am-5pm.

### **Plants, Shoots and Leaves (mail order available)**

This Scottish nursery offers a range of unusual and rare, hardy perennials while specialising in epimediums and hardy geraniums. Most plants are propagated on from its own stock and grown in peat-free or locally produced compost, using recycled plastic pots wherever possible and without the use of artificial chemicals. **Dovecot Bungalow, Haddington, East Lothian EH41 4HA. Tel 01620 823536, [plantsshootsandleaves.co.uk](http://plantsshootsandleaves.co.uk).** Mail order available. Open by appointment April to October and for special open days.

### **Poyntzfield Herb Nursery (mail order available)**

A well-established nursery that is situated on the Black Isle, just north of Inverness, and which has been growing herbs organically and biodynamically since 1976. As well as growing native Scottish herbs, owner Duncan Ross describes himself as a herb hunter, collecting seed from alpine and sub-alpine areas where species are at risk of over harvesting, and cultivating them in the nursery to ensure their survival. The nursery's extensive species list runs to some 400 varieties and is divided into helpful categories, such as aromatic, medicinal and herbs for various different growing conditions.

The nursery aims for a closed system, producing its own compost from garden waste. **Black Isle, By Dingwall, Ross & Cromarty EV7 8LX. Tel 01381 610352, [poyntzfieldherbs.co.uk](http://poyntzfieldherbs.co.uk).** Mail order available. Open Monday to Saturday, 1-5pm, April to September, and Sundays (May to August), 1-5pm.

### **Waddow Lodge Garden (mail order available)**

From his own garden in Lancashire, experienced nurseryman Peter Foley offers a range of perennials for sale and mail order all produced with an environmental approach – all potting compost is peat-free, plant waste is composted for later use on the garden, flower pots are re-used, rainwater is harvested, solar panels are used to generate electricity and the use of chemicals is kept to a minimum. Peter and his wife Liz are also involved in Plant Heritage's Plant Exchange scheme that works to ensure endangered plants are not lost to cultivation. **Waddow Lodge, Waddington, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 3HQ. Tel 01200 429145, [gardentalks.co.uk](http://gardentalks.co.uk).** Mail order available. Open by appointment only – also under the National Gardens Scheme.

## Walcot Organic Nursery (mail order and online available)

Set up in 2000, Walcot has only ever specialised in organic fruit trees, starting out with a selection of cultivars that had been grown in and around the Vale of Evesham for years – long before the use of pesticides. The nursery now offers over 80 apple cultivars and more than 30 plum, gage and damson cultivars along with pears, cherries and quinces.

Certified by the Soil Association, Walcot also manages its land on a five-year rotation, leaving land fallow and adding organic matter before re-cropping to ensure the sustainability of the soil. **Walcot Lane, Drakes Broughton, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 2AL. Tel 01905 841587, [www.walcotnursery.co.uk](http://www.walcotnursery.co.uk) Open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm, and Saturdays (October to April), 10am-1pm.**

## Organic Seed Suppliers

Organic seeds are becoming more easily available. It's always worth searching for options with your regular seed company of choice, or here's a list of companies that are already offering good options:

- **Mr Fothergills Seeds** Tel 0333 777 3936, [mr-fothergills.co.uk](http://mr-fothergills.co.uk) – many popular choices.
- **Real Seeds** Tel 01239 821107, [realseeds.co.uk](http://realseeds.co.uk) – open pollinated seeds.
- **Seed Co-operative** Tel 01775 840592, [seedcooperative.org.uk](http://seedcooperative.org.uk) – open pollinated varieties adapted to organic growing.
- **Suttons** Tel 0344 326 2200, [suttons.co.uk](http://suttons.co.uk) – 27 new varieties added to its range this year.
- **Tamar Organics** Tel 01579 371087, [tamarorganics.co.uk](http://tamarorganics.co.uk) – vegetables, herbs, flowers, green manures and more.

## Blooms for Bees [www.bloomsforbees.co.uk](http://www.bloomsforbees.co.uk)

An interesting little website. Here is their list of Soil Association organic approved raisers/suppliers:

- **Caves Folly Nurseries**, Colwall, Worcestershire – [cavesfolly.com](http://cavesfolly.com)  
Herbs and herbaceous perennials
- **Cheer's Nurseries Ltd**, Boston, Lincolnshire – [www.cheersnurseries.co.uk](http://www.cheersnurseries.co.uk)  
Herbs and vegetables
- **Brunswick Organic Nursery**, Bishopthorpe, York – [www.brunswickyork.org.uk](http://www.brunswickyork.org.uk)  
Herbs and vegetables
- **Poyntzfield Herb Nursery**, Ross & Cromarty, Scotland – [www.poyntzfieldherbs.co.uk](http://www.poyntzfieldherbs.co.uk)  
Herbs and shrubs

- **Delfland Nurseries**, March, Cambridgeshire – [www.organicplants.co.uk](http://www.organicplants.co.uk)  
Herbs, vegetables and salad crops
- **Lakehayes Nursery** (Bee Happy Plants and Seeds), South Chard, Somerset – [www.beehappyplants.co.uk](http://www.beehappyplants.co.uk)

### ***Perennial plants and shrubs***

- Growers Organics, Yealmpton, Devon – [www.growersorganics.com](http://www.growersorganics.com)  
Vegetables, salads, herbs, fruit and ornamentals
- Plant Raisers Ltd, Howden, East Yorkshire – [www.plantraisers.co.uk](http://www.plantraisers.co.uk)  
Glasshouse crops (tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers)
- Tamar Organics, Launceston, Cornwall – [www.tamarorganics.co.uk](http://www.tamarorganics.co.uk)  
Vegetables, fruit, herbs and flowers
- Wessex Plants (1988) Ltd, nr. Bristol, Somerset – [www.wessexplants.co.uk](http://www.wessexplants.co.uk)  
Herbs, vegetables, brassicas and alliums
- Walcot Nursery, Pershore, Worcestershire – [walcotnursery.co.uk](http://walcotnursery.co.uk)  
Top fruit and soft fruit
- Herons Folly, Mayfield, East Sussex – [www.heronsfollygarden.co.uk](http://www.heronsfollygarden.co.uk)  
Apples
- Welsh Fruit Stocks, Kington, Powys – [www.welshfruitstocks.co.uk](http://www.welshfruitstocks.co.uk)  
Soft fruit

### **Wildflower Seeds**

- Naturescape: [www.naturescape.co.uk](http://www.naturescape.co.uk)
- British Wildflower Plants: [www.wildflowers.co.uk](http://www.wildflowers.co.uk)
- John Chambers Wildflower Seeds; sold through the Plantlife shop, [www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk) (CB is a member of Plantlife and can order for you)

### **Aquatic & Pond Plants**

- **British Pond Plants;** [www.britishpondplants.co.uk](http://www.britishpondplants.co.uk)
- Organic, no pesticide use, native species, online shop and mail order.
- **Waterside Nursery;** [www.watersidenursery.co.uk](http://www.watersidenursery.co.uk). Online and mail order, plenty of native species.
- **Puddleplants;** [www.puddleplants.co.uk](http://www.puddleplants.co.uk). Online and mail order, native and non-native species.
- **Lilies Water Gardens;** [www.lilieswatergardens.co.uk](http://www.lilieswatergardens.co.uk)  
Broad Lane, Newdigate, RH5 5AT. Tel 01306 631064. Not currently open due to Covid restrictions but they have an online shop.

## Other Info

Claire has a wholesale account with de Jager bulbs so can bulk order most bulbs – just ask to borrow the catalogue or look online and provide me with a list including the name and the catalogue ref. number, and quantity. I have emailed them to check on their use of pesticides.

**Geranium 'Roxanne'**; starts to become available as new plants in garden centres around June/July. CB will probably be in a position to split her plants in **spring 2022** so will have 8 or so going spare.

**Toxic garden centre plants:** Dave Goulson undertook studies for plants purchased across about 6 garden centres (inc. places such as B&Q ). He had heard rumours that the greenhouses the plants were reared in relied heavily on the use of pesticides. He raised funds to conduct a scientific analysis with depressing and disturbing results: most of the plants contained a cocktail of pesticides (usually fungicides and insecticides).

Only two out of the 29 plants tested contained no pesticides. 70% contained neonicotinoids, pesticides that are notorious for their harmful effect on bees and for having a long persistence in the environment. I have asked Paul from Sorbus Learning if he can supply us with details of local plant centres that he knows to be safe from this practice. In the meantime, I have contacted the RHS, Knights, Buckland Nurseries, Sarah Raven and Downderry Nurseries to ask the question.

So far, I've heard back from Buckland Nurseries and although he doesn't say that he knows 100% that every young plant he buys in is pesticide-free, he does confirm that he buys from reliable British sources, is concerned about the environment and no pesticides are used at the centre. The RHS has said it has 'passed it on' and will get back to me by mid-March. I'll keep you posted as I get other replies.