



Early bloomers

What is it about?

Early bloomers create food supply for insects that become active as early as the end of winter and promote diversity in the garden.

Recommendations for gardens

Early bloomers, especially bulbs, can be planted late in the year (until the first frost). Use as wide a variety of different species as possible to ensure the broadest possible flowering spectrum. For insects, wild forms of biological origin are best. When buying, it is best to ask for the botanical names. This is the only way to be sure you are not planting cultivated forms that are less attractive to insects.

Insect-friendly bulbs: winter aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*), snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*), spring snowflake (*Leucojum vernum*), wild crocus (*Crocus vernus*, *Crocus albiflorus* and/or *Crocus tommasinianus*), garden star-of-Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*), grape hyacinth (*Muscari spec.*), wild tulip (*Tulipa sylvestris*), Siberian squill (*Scilla siberica*).

Other insect-friendly early-flowering perennials: lungwort (*Pulmonaria officinalis*), anemones (*Anemone nemorosa*), larkspur (*Corydalis cava*), basket of gold (*Alyssum saxatile*), rockcress (*Arabis spec.*), lilac bush (*Aubrieta deltoidea*), evergreen candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*).



Hintergrund

Different insect species have different flight times throughout the day and year. Therefore, you should encourage a wide range of blooms throughout the year to provide food for different insects at their respective flight times.

Hibernating queen bumblebees, for example, fly from +2 °C to forage for food. Many other wild bee species already hatch in March, which is why early flowering plants are important for their survival.

There are also species of wild bees that depend on certain plant species, such as the milkweed sand bee on the umbelliferous milkweed.



Further recommendations

Autumn is also a particularly suitable time for planting (wild) perennials, native shrubs and trees.

Early flowering trees and shrubs such as willow, blackthorn, cornelian cherry or hazel also provide a good food source for insects.

