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ALUMINIUM TELESCOPIC LADDERS
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The innovative design of this lightweight aluminium telescopic ladder makes it a must for every home. It is ideal for a range of interior and exterior uses including roof and loft access, window cleaning, gutter clearing, painting and decorating. To extend, simply pull out each rung and they lock securely into place. When collapsing, simply use the safe two-handed release button and the soft-close function will allow the ladder to fold down with ease. Conforms to European Safety Standard EN 131-6. There are two options available: The 3.2m length ladder weighs just 10.4kg and collapses down to measure L90 x W47 x D8cm, and the 3.8m length ladder weighs just 13.4kg and collapses down to measure L95 x W47 x D9cm. Maximum weight load for both options is 150kg.

GO015 3.2m ladder £119.99
GO016 3.8m ladder £139.99



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NEW

400W PAINT SPRAYER
Now £49.99 plus £4.95 p&p

Save hours painting and decorating with this versatile mains-powered spray gun by Work Expert, perfect for completing DIY tasks with minimal effort. The 620ml reservoir can be filled with water, solvent and enamel-based paints, wood sealers, stains and varnishes to suit any job. Use indoors to spruce up old furniture and doors or use outside for fences, decking and furniture. Features an ergonomic handle and trigger, and the powerful 400W motor sprays paint quickly and evenly. Select from any of the four nozzles included and spray with a flow rate of 700ml per minute. It also has a useful output control that allows you to adjust the spray pattern to suit your chosen surface and type of paint. The ultra-lightweight paint sprayer also comes with a carry handle to make transporting it from job to job a breeze. It features a detachable container and cleaning pin and brush for quick, easy and thorough cleaning; and also comes with a viscosity measuring cup and a thinning and mixing guide in the instruction manual, making this paint sprayer the perfect addition to your tool collection. Not suitable with textured wall paints or coatings.

G3965 400W paint sprayer

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Gardening club



with DAVID DOMONEY

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Q&A



Are creepy crawlies all harmful guests?

Should all the insects on my plants be considered pests? **Deborah, via email DAVID:** No, many insects are in fact greatly beneficial in the garden. Ladybirds, hoverflies and lacewings will feed on pests like aphids. Bees and butterflies are also obviously extremely important as they pollinate the flowers we grow in our gardens and they are so vital in sustaining the human food chain.



Help me to root out more room for veg

I'm running out of space. Can I grow root veg in containers? **Nigel, Kent DAVID:** Many root vegetables need a long growing period and have high nutrient requirements, so most are unsuitable for containers. Quick to mature radishes and beetroot do well in deep containers when well-watered.

TIP of the week

A sprinkling of Epsom salts or baking powder around the base of a tomato plant should give it sweeter-tasting fruits.

GET IN TOUCH

For loads more hints and tips on gardening visit daviddomoney.com or follow me on Facebook at @DavidDomoneyTV or on Twitter @daviddomoney

Our future as human beings depends on ensuring pollinators thrive - so here's my guide to creating bee friendly spaces which attract helpful insects

Ahead of Bees' Needs Week, which kicks off tomorrow across the country, I thought I'd share some ways in which everyone can do a little something for our little yellow and black friends. As gardeners, we have our bees' well-being in the palm of our hands and there's no better way to garden than to "bee friendly".

BRITISH BEES

There are an incredible 250 species of bee in Britain and we have an estimated 270,000 honeybee hives. As a beekeeper, I know the significance of bees for our well-being - without their pollination the human race would struggle to harvest enough food.

In Europe, a third of bee and butterfly species are declining and 10 per cent could face extinction.

Making your garden pollinator-friendly will help provide bees with food and homes. Once you look, you'll start to notice different species. Next

“You can offer nectar sources simply by mowing the lawn less

time you see a bumblebee, note its tail end - some are identifiable by "buff-tailed" or "red-tailed" characteristics.

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

One of the most beneficial things you can do for bees is grow more flowers. Cultivars rich in pollen or nectar will make delicious food which is taken back to the hive and made into honey for young insects.

You can offer nectar sources simply by mowing your lawn less. In fact, there could be a 30 per cent increase in bee activity by reducing mowing, as even weeds and lawn flowers like daisies and clovers keep bees abuzz.

It's no secret our flying friends love blue and purple hues, as they can see ultraviolet shades most vividly. Opt for Buddleja (butterfly bush), blue globe thistle and chives to invite in pollinators during summer and autumn.

Abelia x grandiflora is a shrub that displays clusters of pale pink flowers during summer and autumn and you can add it to large borders and beds as it's well known for attracting bees.

If your flower beds are already bursting with life, pepper heathers among established plants or try space-saving patio pots of purple lavender and herbs like oregano.

HUMBLE HOMES

Give your garden bees more ground cover by keeping the space wild wherever possible and going for green



NICE BUZZ
Wild bees are essential to the food chain



HIVE FIVE Ideal habitat for bees

Nectar points

instead of grey man-made structures. For a few years, I've been adding to a wildflower cornucopia in the bottom of my garden and there are ready-to-use wildflower seed balls that you can scatter yourself. As well as inviting bees into the garden, this works as a safe haven. Solitary bees like mason bees use mud for constructing their nests while mining bees make theirs in

lawn or semi-bare ground - so a green patch of soil can go a long way to keeping them safe over winter. A really easy way to turn the tides is to spend some time building a bee hotel - see my step-by-step guide at daviddomoney.com But, to put it simply, it can be done by rolling up a length of corrugated cardboard or you can use hollow stemmed bramble, hogweed or

bamboo - any that are about 4mm in diameter. If you hang your hotel in a sunny spot, bees will lay eggs in the stems over spring and the young bees will emerge the next year. **BEE-LIEVE THE BUZZ** Gardening to help wildlife provides a great incentive to get out there every day, which is really rewarding. Let

yourself fall in love with these little bumbling beauties by keeping an eye out for species that visit your garden and getting your kids to join in with a bee survey. There's so much to find out about these fascinating creatures. For example, they can actually recognise our faces. And it takes the honeybees a staggering 10 million trips to gather up

enough nectar for just 1lb of delicious wild honey.

TOP TIPS TO TRY

The most alarming threat to honeybees is the Asian hornet. Go to nonnative-species.org to flag sightings. Instead of using harsh chemicals, spray aphids with washing up liquid or neem oil. Encourage ladybirds and lacewings which will keep aphid populations in check without harming bees. Spread the word. If you see neat circular cuttings from your plant leaves, it's most likely caused by leaf-cutter bees. They won't harm plants, so don't spray insecticides - and, in general, think before you spray. Also, create a more bee-friendly space by incorporating some hibernating habitats and supply of fresh water. Bird baths are good for bees too.

BEE MORE AWARE

You can download apps to get your family talking and thinking about bees more, try apps like **BeelD** and visit bumblebeeconservation.org/bees-needs/ to find out how to help and for more information about Bees' Needs Week 2019.

Children learning to love a bug's life



DIRTY HANDS Kid handles a worm

MANY of us are gardening with wildlife in mind - whether it be lavender for bees or creating bug hotels in a shady corner, we are all becoming more conscious of our mini-beast friends. We all want to do our bit for the planet, but getting back to nature doesn't only benefit wildlife, it can have a positive effect on us human beings. Last year, Wychall primary School in Birmingham greened up their outdoor space and soon after, started spotting some positive changes. Gabrielle Jones, Assistant Head Teacher and Forest School, said: "We have seen such a huge change in their attitude towards nature, being outdoors

and getting dirty. They've gone from not liking small creatures and dirt, to loving the mud and creative activities." This school found that when teachers lead by example it played a huge part in building the student's confidence. Gabrielle added: "It is important for staff to model engaging with nature, picking up insects and show them how to handle them sympathetically." If you have stories about your school or community garden, make sure you enter the Cultivation Street 2019 competition, sponsored by Calliope® - visit cultivationstreet.com

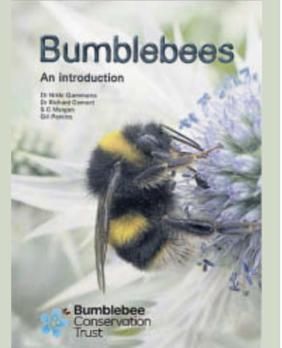
also identified a transformation in their pupils too. Many of the children had found coming into contact with nature difficult. They wouldn't touch anything. But after gradual exposure and plenty of chances to relax in the natural surroundings, things began to change. Gabrielle Jones, Assistant Head Teacher and Forest School, said: "We have seen such a huge change in their attitude towards nature, being outdoors

OFFER of the week

Perovskia Blue Spire, known as Russian Sage, is a superb plant which produces both impressive flowers and foliage. It's highly-scented silver leaves are topped with spikes of gorgeous, tiny, violet purple bell-shaped flowers in late summer. Height 1m and 9cm pot plants supplied. Buy one Perovskia Blue Spire for £8.99 or order **FOUR** for £17.98, **HALF PRICE.** Delivery within 14 days. To order by debit/credit card call 0843 922 5000 quoting **SMTG042** or send a cheque made payable, using blue or black ink, to 'Garden Offers' to Perovskia Blue Spire Offer (SMTG042) PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY or visit mirrorgardenoffers.co.uk



TOP BUY



If you want to support the work of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and get tons of great advice about bees, I've found the book for you. Written by trust staff, Bumblebees: An Introduction covers bee biology, their decline and how to help them in your garden in an easy-to-understand and entertaining way. It also has an essential identification guide to all UK bumblebee species, packed with over 250 colour photographs. Just £10 via www.yppbooks.com