

# POLLINATOR TIMED COUNT

Pollinators are animals that visit flowers and, in doing so, take pollen from one flower to another. This fertilises the flowers (pollination), allowing them to create seeds that will produce next season's flowers. Many types of animals pollinate flowers. You are going to record the diversity of pollinators in your Tiny Forest.

## EQUIPMENT:

- 1 x Timer
- 1 x Pollinator ID guide
- 1 x Tablet/phone/printed field sheet

## WHEN TO SURVEY

Ideally when it is warm (13°C in sunny conditions, or 15°C when cloudy) and, if possible, when the forest is not too disturbed by people.

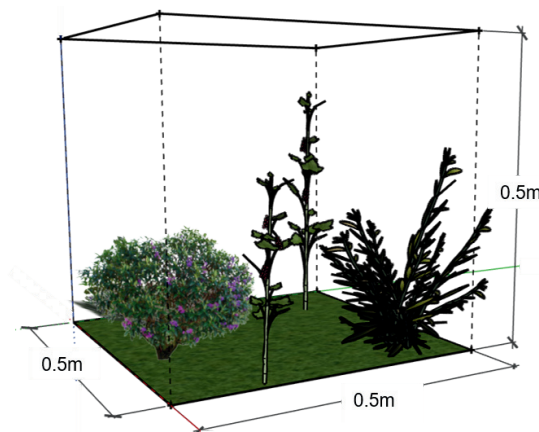


## INSTRUCTIONS

### STEP 1:

- Choose a 50cm x 50cm x 50cm patch in the forest where you will do your pollinator count. The patch should have flowering trees or plants. Choose just one type of flower to focus on.

*NB - some trees have flowers that don't look much like flowers but they are still very attractive to pollinators. Some examples are below:*



Hornbeam  
(*Carpinus betulus*) flower

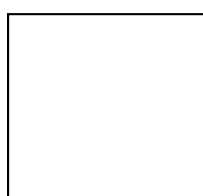
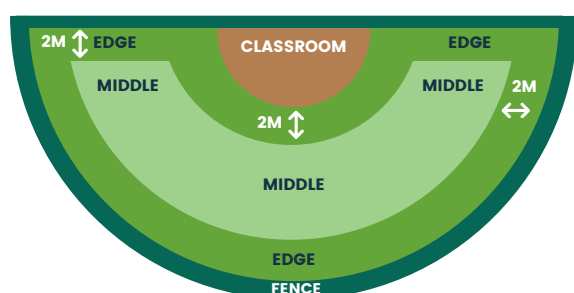


Goat Willow  
(*Salix caprea*) flower

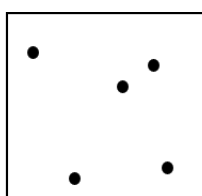


## STEP 2:

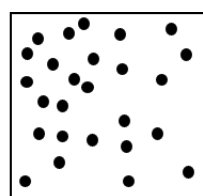
- Record information about your patch and its conditions on your tablet, phone or field sheet:
  - Where in the forest your survey patch is (middle = more than 2m from any edges of the Tiny Forest including classroom, edge = less than 2m from any edges of the Tiny Forest) - see diagram below;
  - The weather conditions;
  - How much of your site is covered by flowers. This includes flowers on the trees and the ground. You can use the diagram below to help you estimate this;
  - The type of flower you are focusing on, if you know the plant species or family.



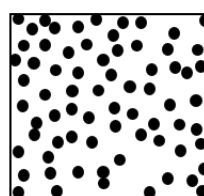
NO FLOWERS



SMALL PROPORTION  
OF PATCH



ALMOST HALF  
THE PATCH

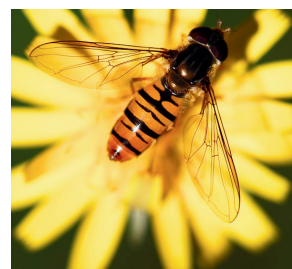
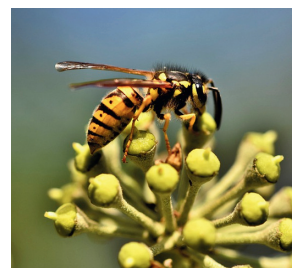
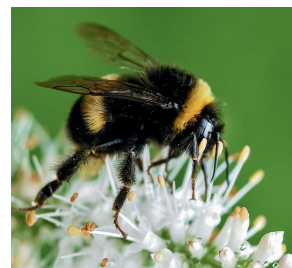


MOST OF THE  
PATCH

## STEP 3:

- Record your level of experience in pollinator identification. Before you start your observations record your level of experience in identifying pollinators and familiarise yourself with the Pollinator ID guide.
- Begin your 10 minute timer. Find a comfortable place to sit and start your timer. Try to remain still and quiet for the full survey, so as not to disturb the pollinators.
- Record the number of each pollinator group that lands on flowers in the patch. Watch the patch closely and keep track of the **maximum number** of any insect group you see on the flowers (not the stem or leaves) in your patch **at the same time** i.e. if you see three bumblebees in your patch at the same time you can record the abundance as three. If however, you see one bumblebee at minute two and two bumblebees at minute five, then the maximum number of bumblebees you have seen at the same time is two (not three).

If you're not sure what type of insect it is, record it in the 'Other insect' category.



## STEP 4:

- Record if your patch was in sun or shade during the survey time.