

Instructions for Cross Pollination Project Survey

Thank you for volunteering to help collect important data from our Cross Pollination Project (CPP) beds. Your data will be collated by the University of Sussex as part of their ongoing research.

This sheet provides information and advice on how to carry out a CPP survey but if you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch using the contact details found at the bottom of the page.

Remember - don't worry if you have difficulty identifying insects or make errors – it takes time to get your eye in and sometimes they just move too quickly! Just do your best and we appreciate any data that you can gather.

What you will need:

- Survey form (standard or kid's version depending on age of surveyor)
- Clipboard and pencil
- Species code list
- ID guides
- Watch
- Camera*
- Map of the flower bed (if you cannot identify the plants or the labels are not in place)
- Secateurs and gloves (if helping maintain the flowers)*

*optional

Completing the survey form

Ideally you will move from plant to plant taking an instantaneous count of the insects foraging on that plant. If you are just starting out this will take time but once you have some practice a survey can be done very quickly. You can do more than one survey on your visit if you have time, ideally you should leave 30 minutes gap between the start of your surveys. Avoid doing surveys on days when the weather is poor (i.e. heavy rain or strong winds).

Site Name: the site you are at (i.e. Grosvenor & Hilbert Park, Dunorlan Park, Sherwood Allotment, Oakley, or Pepenbury)

Time: Please record the start time of your survey

Survey Ref/No: if you are doing more than one survey on that visit you can record them here

Surveyor Name/Group: The name of the person(s) or group carrying out the survey

Temp: Please record the temperature in Celsius – you can estimate or use your smart phone if you have one

Cross Pollination Project, Kent High Weald Partnership, Walled Garden, Bedgebury Pinetum,
Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst, Kent TN17 2SJ

Wind: please record the wind using the Beaufort scale which can be found at the bottom of the survey form

% Blue sky: Please estimate to the nearest 10% increment the percentage of blue sky from 0 to 100.

Area m²: The CPP beds are all divided into 1 metre² plots but the plant may not be filling its plot or may have overgrown it and spreading over. So for example if the lavender is only filling half of its plot please record 0.5m²

Bloom %: This is how much the plant is currently flowering. E.g. No flowers = 0%, half the flowers are out = 50% and in full bloom = 100%

Flower height: Please estimate the average flower height in centimetres

Insects: The insects are split into 9 categories: Honeybee; Bumble bee; Other bee; Hoverfly; Other fly; Butterfly; Moth; Beetle; and Other insect. You need to record the numbers of each insect found foraging on the plant. If they are not a foraging insect, i.e. the ladybird, do not record it. If you are unsure, record it.

Bumble bee is split into 7 species types, details of which can be found at the bottom of the form.

For all insects other than Honeybee and Bumble bee, if you can identify the species please record it using the code (see species code sheet) followed by the quantity- for example 2 Peacock butterflies would be recorded in the butterfly box as PC2. If you cannot identify the species just record the number and not the species. Codes are also displayed on the provided ID guides.

Please complete the total number of all insects found on the plant in the last column.

Submitting your data

If you are planning to carry out a few surveys please send your completed forms in small batches. Completed forms can be posted to the address below or emailed to George.curd@kent.gov.uk. If neither of these options are practical contact us and we can send you a stamped and self-addressed envelope or drop the completed surveys into the site office of the CPP bed you are at.

You can pick up a free CPP t-shirt from the Hub at Grosvenor and Hilbert Park, just go and see Steff at her office (on the left side of the café by the toilets). You can obtain additional survey forms and a survey kit by contacting George on 01580 212972 or emailing George.curd@kent.gov.uk

Other information and contact details

If you are able and willing please feel free to take secateurs and gloves with you when surveying – we would really appreciate help with dead-heading and weeding of the CPP beds.

If you notice any damage or problems with the CPP beds please contact George Curd on 01580 212972 or email George.curd@kent.gov.uk

