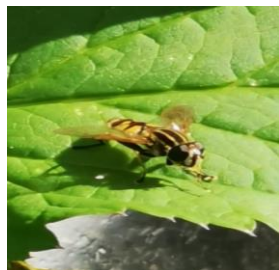


Make a Hoverfly Lagoon

Do you fancy helping out some of our cool, but less known pollinators? Hoverflies are very important pollinators and we have around 280 different species in the UK. Many look like bees or wasps for protection but don't worry they don't sting.



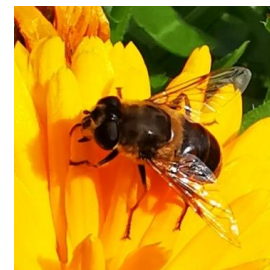
Tapered Drone fly



A Sun fly



Common Drone Fly



Tapered Drone fly

Some species of hoverfly live in stagnant water for the first part of their life. The little baby larvae have long breathing tubes which they extend up to the surface of the water and they are known as rat tailed maggots.

One of the favourite places for adults to lay their eggs (up to 200) is in water-filled holes in trees (rot holes). Unfortunately, not many of us have these in our gardens, but we can help hoverflies by recreating a similar habitat in our gardens by following a few simple steps and using recycled and natural materials.

What do you need?

- A container for your lagoon, e.g. a 6 pint milk bottle cut in half, an ice cream tub, a fat ball tub or any other suitable container
- Sticks, leaf litter and / or grass cuttings.
- A tray for finding your hoverfly larvae later in the year

How to make your lagoon:



Positioning your lagoon

Don't place your lagoon in full sun as it will get too hot.

Partial or full shade under a bush would be best.

1. Add a layer of grass cuttings or leaves to the bottom of your container and press it all down to create a nice thick layer of vegetation.
2. Fill up your lagoon with water, preferably rainwater either by collecting it when it rains or leaving your lagoon to fill up naturally.
3. Insert sticks, reaching from the bottom to top.
4. Once filled with water add another layer of leaf litter on top.
5. Stand your lagoon in a tray filled with dry leaf litter for larvae to move into to pupate.

Recording your hoverfly babies:

Check your lagoon once a month for the long-tailed larvae (see photo), and look for the last stage (pre-hatching) pupae in the leafy tray. Take photos and count how many individuals you find and put your findings on IRecord.



You could transfer your pupae into a jar with a pierced lid/air holes and monitor them daily to watch them turn in to adults. Any young larvae need to be returned to the lagoon so that they can continue to grow and go on to pupate.

I've sent you a resource guide about why we should make these, and you can find a lot more information about Hoverflies and hoverfly lagoons at <https://www.thebuzzclub.uk/hoverfly-lagoons>