

What do I need?

Shallow container or dish*

Small stones, shells and/or marbles

Water

*This could be a used, cleaned food container or a ceramic plant pot saucer. The container needs to be shallow as insects can drown in deep water.



insect hydration station



What do I do?

In many of our other tutorials we have looked at different ways to attract pollinating insects. If you've been following our tutorials you may already have noticed an increase in insect numbers in your garden. Insects need water and many sadly drown when trying to drink from deep water sources like ponds because there is no safe place for them to land and take off from. This activity will provide them with a safe source of water.

Arrange your stones, shells and marbles in your shallow container. These will act as landing stations for your insects to sit on when they come to drink water. Make sure to leave gaps between your materials for the water to pool.

Fill your container with clean water so that your materials are partially submerged with their tops above the surface so that the insects can use them to safely land and take off without getting wet.

Place your hydration station in a shady spot at ground height, making sure it is completely level. Try to place it near pollinator-friendly flowers and consider having your bee hotel nearby too!

Replace the water daily to keep it fresh.

Did you know?

Bees are especially prone to drowning when trying to find water. Many bee species use water to help regulate the temperature of their hive and to water-down their honey. A bee will tell other bees from its hive where the water source is so you'll often see many bees visiting the same spot to drink and collect water.