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Once upon a time there was a young plant. Her name was [children invent a name – Ella used for convenience here]. She was growing near a wood and she had lots of pretty bright green leaves [children use their imagination to describe her]. There were no other plants like Ella around and everyone who passed by stopped to look at her and take pictures of her. A year had passed since she grew from her seed. All her brothers and sisters were on the other side of the wood. She wondered why she grew so far away.

Winter came and it rained. Ella liked the rain because the water in the soil is so good for her. Ella grew some more leaves.

Spring came, the weather got warm and Ella knew it was time to grow flowers. Ella’s flowers were pretty and smelt very nice. The little wind carried her perfume in the air and people said “Mmmm! What a lovely scent!” and they bent down to sniff Ella’s flowers. They tickled her with their long noses!

Ella knew that flowers make seeds. But [pause] she didn’t know how! She asked Pine Tree who grew nearby: “Big tree, you have lots of pine cones full of seeds. Can you tell me how to make seeds?”

“Yes of course my dear,” said kind Pine Tree, “In spring I grow special cones with lots of pollen inside them. I give my pollen to other pine trees and they give me their pollen. When the pollen mixes, the seeds grow in the cones.”

“How can you give your pollen to the other trees?” asked Ella. “You can’t walk!”

“Yes of course my dear,” said kind Pine Tree, “In spring I grow special cones with lots of pollen inside them. I give my pollen to other pine trees and they give me their pollen. When the pollen mixes, the seeds grow in the cones.”

“How can you give your pollen to the other trees?” asked Ella. “You can’t walk!”

“Haha, no need to walk,” replied Pine Tree, “When the wind blows, my pollen flies off. The wind carries my pollen to other pine trees and brings me their dust. So you see, the wind does the work.”

“Wow, I can do that!” Ella said happily. She stretched opened her petals as wide as she could so the wind will carry her pollen to another flower. But when the wind came, nothing happened. Her pollen did not fly away. Ella was very sad.

“Why isn’t the wind taking my pollen?” she asked Pine Tree.

“Oh dear,” said Pine Tree. “I think your dust is too heavy and sticky for the wind to carry. I think you have to take your pollen to the other flowers yourself.”

“But I cannot do that!” said Ella, “I can’t walk!”

Ella began to cry. Her tears came out of the middle of the flowers. Ella’s tears tasted sweet. They were special tears called nectar. The more Ella cried, the more nectar came out. Suddenly Bee landed on Ella’s flower.

“Yummy, nectar!” said Bee and began to drink. Ella was very surprised. Bee was very furry and she had lots of yellow dust stuck to her fur.

“Mmm!” said Bee, “Thank you, Ella. What a lovely drink!”

“You’re welcome,” said Ella, “What’s that yellow stuff on your fur?”

“Oh, that’s pollen,” said Bee, “It sticks to me when I visit flowerzzzz. I have some of yourzzzz now too. Bye!”

Bee flew off. Then Ella heard another voice: “Hey girlzzzz, here’zzz another one!” Wasp landed on one of her flowers, and soon ten more wasps landed too.

“Yum!” said Wasp, “Deliciouzzzz! Thankzzz Ella!”

“You’re welcome,” said Ella. “But how do you all know my name?”

“Haha!” laughed Wasp. “Of course we know you, Ella! We can smell your perfume from the other side of the wood. There are more plants like you there. We’ve been drinking your nectar all morning!”

“Really?” said Ella. “Please can you take my pollen to my cousin plants? And can you bring me some of theirs, so I can make seeds?”

Wasp laughed. “You have some already! Bee who came before us also visited your cousin plants. When she came to drink your nectar she dropped half her load of pollen on you.”

“Oh goody,” said Ella happily, “And look, your legs are covered in my pollen now. When you go to the other flowers, will my pollen stick to them?”

“Yes it will,” said Wasp, “We get your sticky pollen all over our bodies. But we don’t mind. Well, I’m off. Here comes Bumble Bee!”

Bumble Bee was big, and black, yellow and white. And very furry! She too had lots of pollen on her legs.

Ella began to laugh. “I don’t need the wind after all. My pollen is sticky because it’s the insects that carry it!”

Ella laughed so hard that more tears of nectar came out of her flowers. And more insects came to drink. They all had hairy legs or bodies and they all carried pollen!

Ella made lots of nectar and she made lots of insect friends. Her favourite insect friends were the butterflies. They were so colourful, and they tickled her with their long curly tongues.

When all her nectar was finished, Ella’s flowers dried up and turned into bags of seeds. Ella was so happy.

“The seeds are my babies,” she said. “Next year they will all grow into beautiful new plants.”
Pollinator plants
Maltese flowering plants you can grow

Here are 23 native flowering plants you can grow from seed, which will add colour, pattern and life to your garden. Watch bugs, bees and butterflies drop in for a snack!

**Maltese name**
**Scientific name**
**Type**
**Flowering period**
**Colour of flower**

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**Myrtle**
- Maltese name: Riħan
- Scientific name: *Myrtus communis*
- Type: Medium shrub
- Flowering period: Jun to Dec
- Colour of flower: White

**Silvery Ragwort**
- Maltese name: Kromb il-Baħar Isfar
- Scientific name: *Jacobaea maritima*
- Type: Small shrub
- Flowering period: Apr to Jul
- Colour of flower: Yellow

**Fringed Rue**
- Maltese name: Fejjel
- Scientific name: *Ruta chalepensis*
- Type: Small shrub
- Flowering period: Mar to Jun
- Colour of flower: Yellow

**Narcissus**
- Maltese name: Narċis
- Scientific name: *Narcissus tazetta*
- Type: Bulb plant, leaves at base
- Flowering period: Dec to Feb
- Colour of flower: White + yellow

**Fennel**
- Maltese name: Busbież
- Scientific name: *Foeniculum vulgare*
- Type: Small shrub, tall flowers
- Flowering period: May to Sep
- Colour of flower: Yellow

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maltese name</th>
<th>Scientific name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Flowering period</th>
<th>Colour of flower</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Klin</td>
<td>Rosmarinus officinalis</td>
<td>Small/medium shrub</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>Lilac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berwieq</td>
<td>Asphodelus aestivus</td>
<td>Bulb plant, leaves at base, tall flowers</td>
<td>Jan to Apr</td>
<td>White with brown stripes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pankraju</td>
<td>Pancratium maritimum</td>
<td>Bulb plant, leaves at base</td>
<td>Jun to Sep</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ħabb il-Qamħ tar-Raba’</td>
<td>Gladiolus italicus</td>
<td>Bulb plant, leaves at base, tall flowers</td>
<td>Apr to May</td>
<td>Dark pink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ĉistu Roża</td>
<td>Cistus creticus</td>
<td>Small shrub</td>
<td>Feb to Jun</td>
<td>Pink + yellow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

© BirdLife Malta
Maltese name: Ħatba s-Sewda
Scientific name: Anthyllis hermanniae
Type: Small shrub
Flowering period: Apr to May
Colour of flower: Yellow

Maltese name: Widnet il-Bahar
Scientific name: Cheirolaphus crassifolius
Type: Small shrub
Flowering period: May to Jul
Colour of flower: Pink

Maltese name: Riħan
Scientific name: Lonicera implexa
Type: Small/medium shrub
Flowering period: Apr to May
Colour of flower: Pink + white

Maltese name: Te Sqalli
Scientific name: Prasium majus
Type: Small shrub
Flowering period: May to Jul
Colour of flower: White/Yellow

Maltese name: Żebbuġija
Scientific name: Teucrium fruticans
Type: Small/medium shrub
Flowering period: Dec to Jun
Colour of flower: Purple

Maltese name: Te Sqalli
Scientific name: Prasium majus
Type: Small shrub
Flowering period: May to Jul
Colour of flower: White/Yellow

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Flowering period: May to Jul
Colour of flower: White/Yellow
**Narrow-leaved Rock-rose**
- **Maltese name**: Ħamra
- **Scientific name**: Antirrhinum tortuosum
- **Type**: Small shrub
- **Flowering period**: All year
- **Colour of flower**: Pink

**Golden Samphire**
- **Maltese name**: Ħamra
- **Scientific name**: Limbara crithmoides
- **Type**: Small shrub
- **Flowering period**: Oct to Dec
- **Colour of flower**: Yellow + orange

**Sweet Alison**
- **Maltese name**: Buttuniera
- **Scientific name**: Lobularia maritima
- **Type**: Low shrub
- **Flowering period**: Oct to Jun
- **Colour of flower**: White

**Common Smilax**
- **Maltese name**: Pajżana
- **Scientific name**: Smilax aspera
- **Type**: Thorny climber
- **Flowering period**: Sep to Nov
- **Colour of flower**: Yellow/white

**Greater Snapdragon**
- **Maltese name**: Papoċċi Ħamra
- **Scientific name**: Antirrhinum tortuosum
- **Type**: Small shrub
- **Flowering period**: All year
- **Colour of flower**: Pink

**Great Sage**
- **Maltese name**: Xorbett
- **Scientific name**: Limbara crithmoides
- **Type**: Small shrub
- **Flowering period**: Oct to Dec
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Pollinator Station

Oblong planters are best for this arrangement. Unlike round pots, they use up all the space and fit together like a jigsaw puzzle. Get your kids to help out with the plan. It’s important that this becomes their project, that they feel proud of their creation, and happy that they helped scores of insects to find food and survive.

If all you have is walls and concrete paving and you’re not prepared to pull up a section of the floor, you can still turn your corner into a pollinator station. By using planters.

In this arrangement wooden planters are used but plastic planters work just as well (wooden ones just look more natural). Buy different sizes and heights for a more dynamic result. Place taller ones at the back to create a terrace effect.

Plant the species with the tallest flowers at the back.

Not all plants will be flowering at the same time.

Leaves gaps where kids can reach innermost planters for watering, maintenance and close-up observation of pollinators.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pollinator Race</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>butterfly</td>
<td>bee</td>
<td>bee</td>
<td>wasp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>farfett</td>
<td>nahla</td>
<td>dubbiena</td>
<td>żmżana</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Make a mini display module

Here’s how

1. Find a large cardboard box (A).
2. Open it carefully and lay it flat out (B).
3. Remove the top and bottom flaps, leaving the four adjacent sides.
4. Fold the sides like a concertina (C) or any desired shape.
5. Use the sides to display the photographs, as in the diagram above.

Using several of these free-standing modules you can mount an exhibition with multiple topics. The modules are versatile and can be set up in many ways on tables around a room, creating a wonderful display.
This is a Dinja Waћda school

This is a Dinja Waћda class
Din skola Dinja Waħda
Din klassi Dinja Waħda