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The plant who didn't know

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!"

"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.

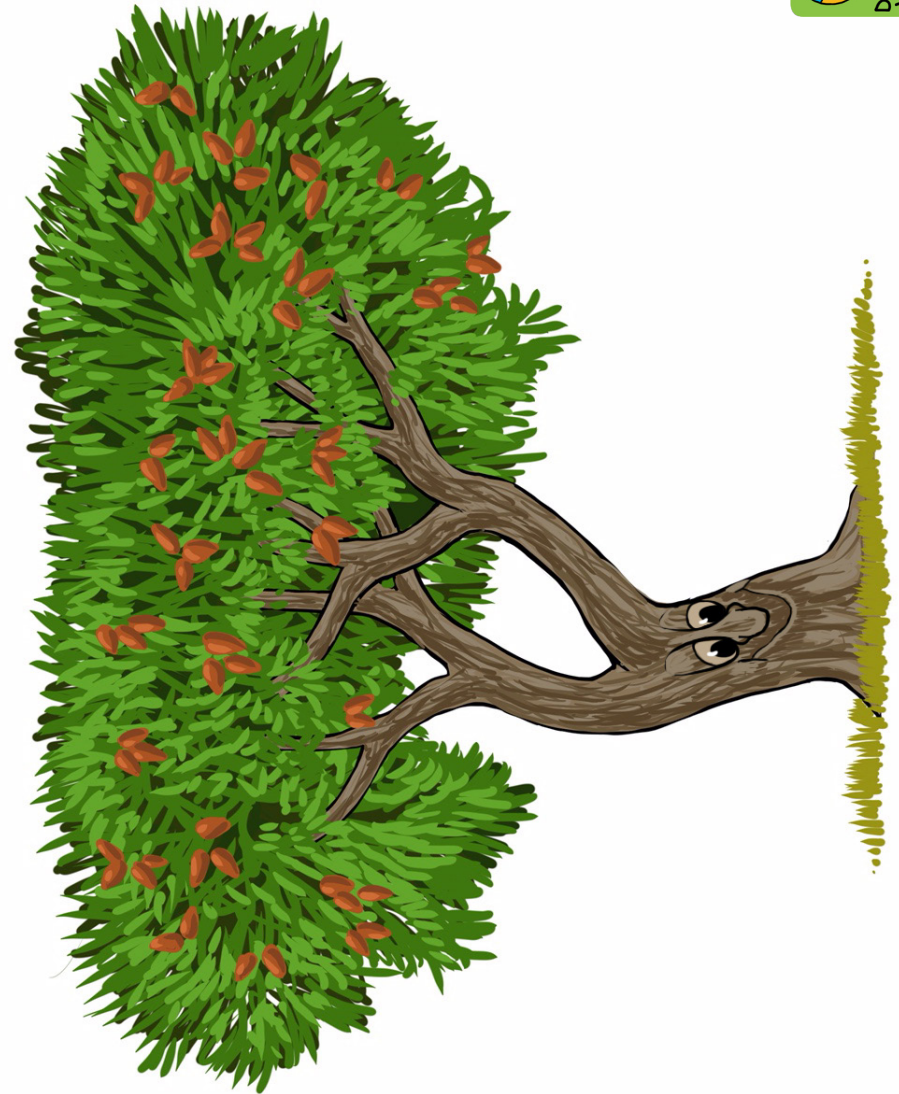
Ella began to laugh. "I don't need the wind after all. My pollen is sticky because it's the insects that carry it!"

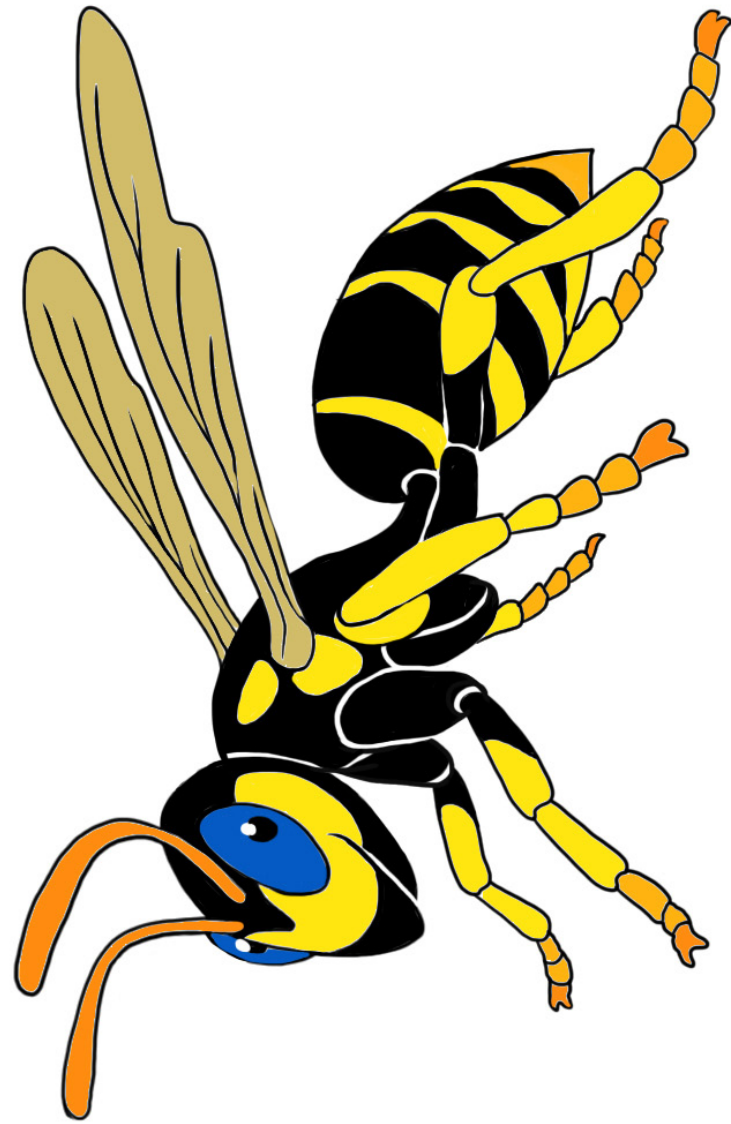
Ella laughed so hard that more tears of nectar came out of her flowers. And more insects came to drink. They all had hairy legs or bodies and they all carried pollen!

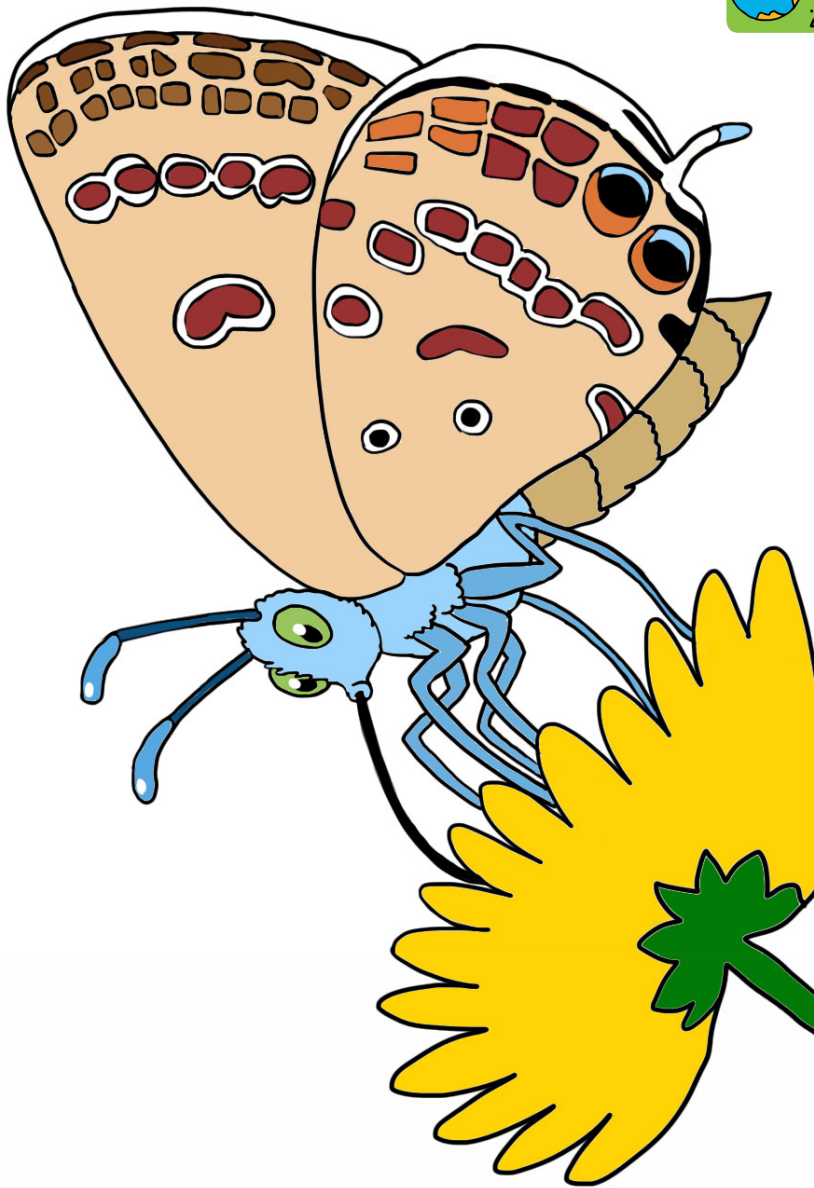
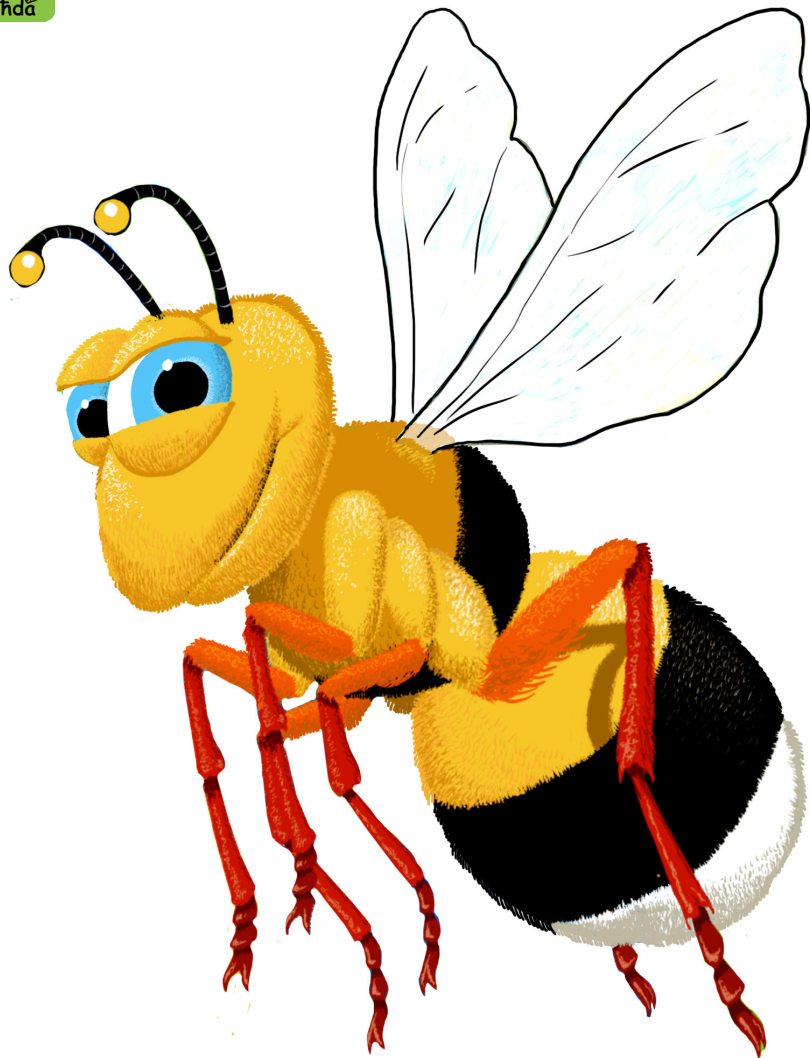
Ella made lots of nectar and she made lots of insect friends. Her favourite insect friends were the butterflies. They were so colourful, and they tickled her with their long curly tongues.

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

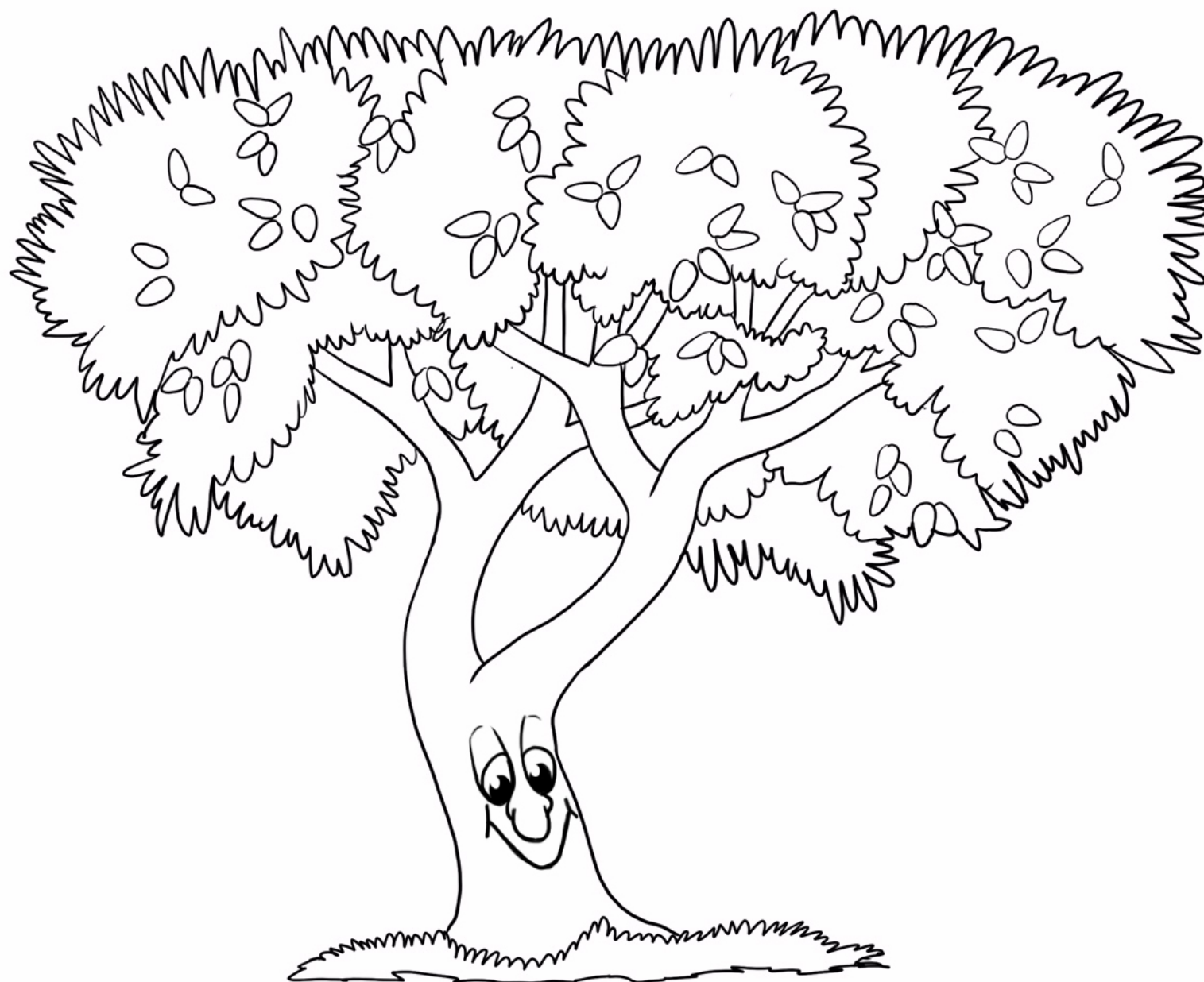
"The seeds are my babies," she said. "Next year they will all grow into beautiful new plants."

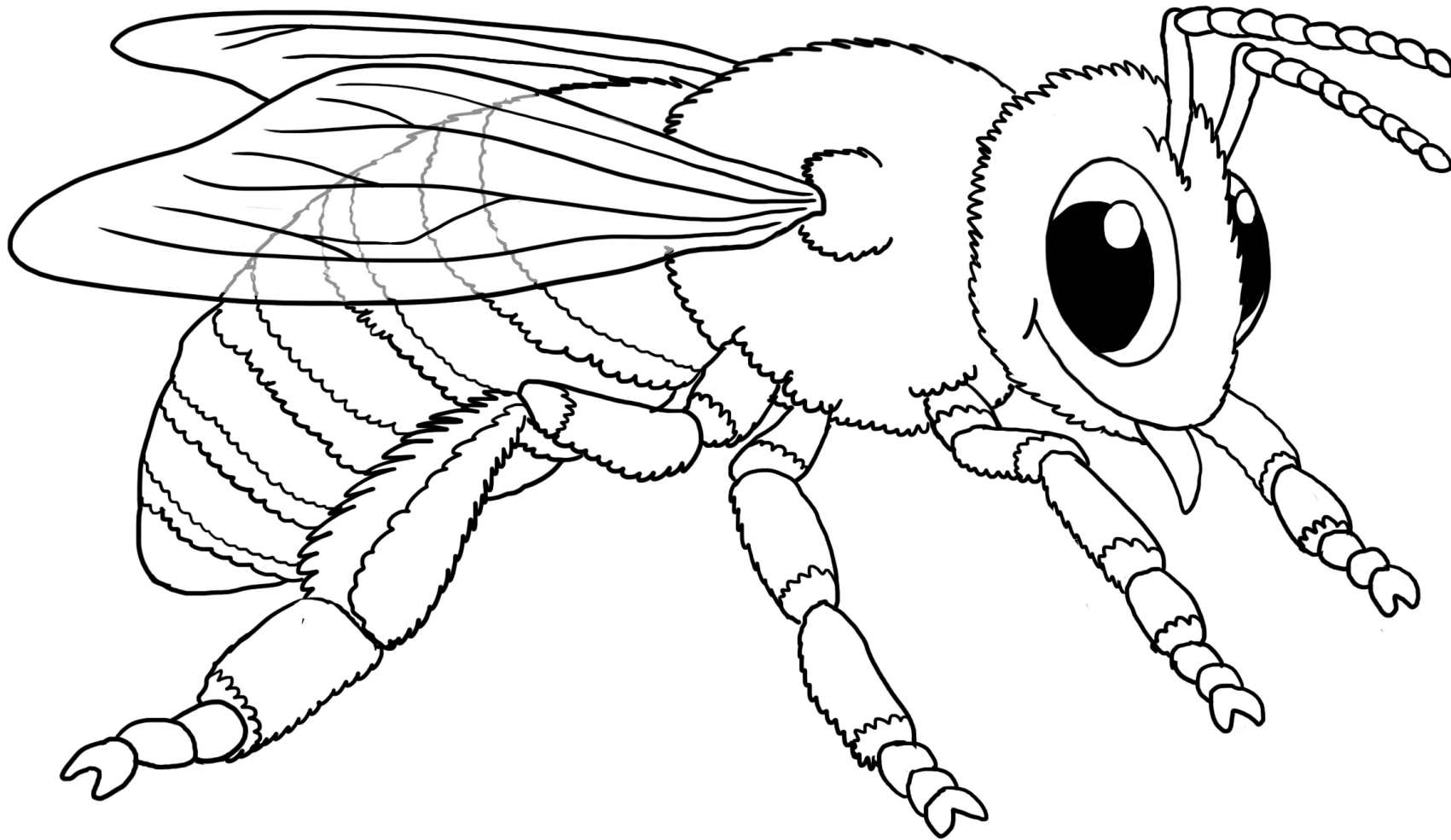


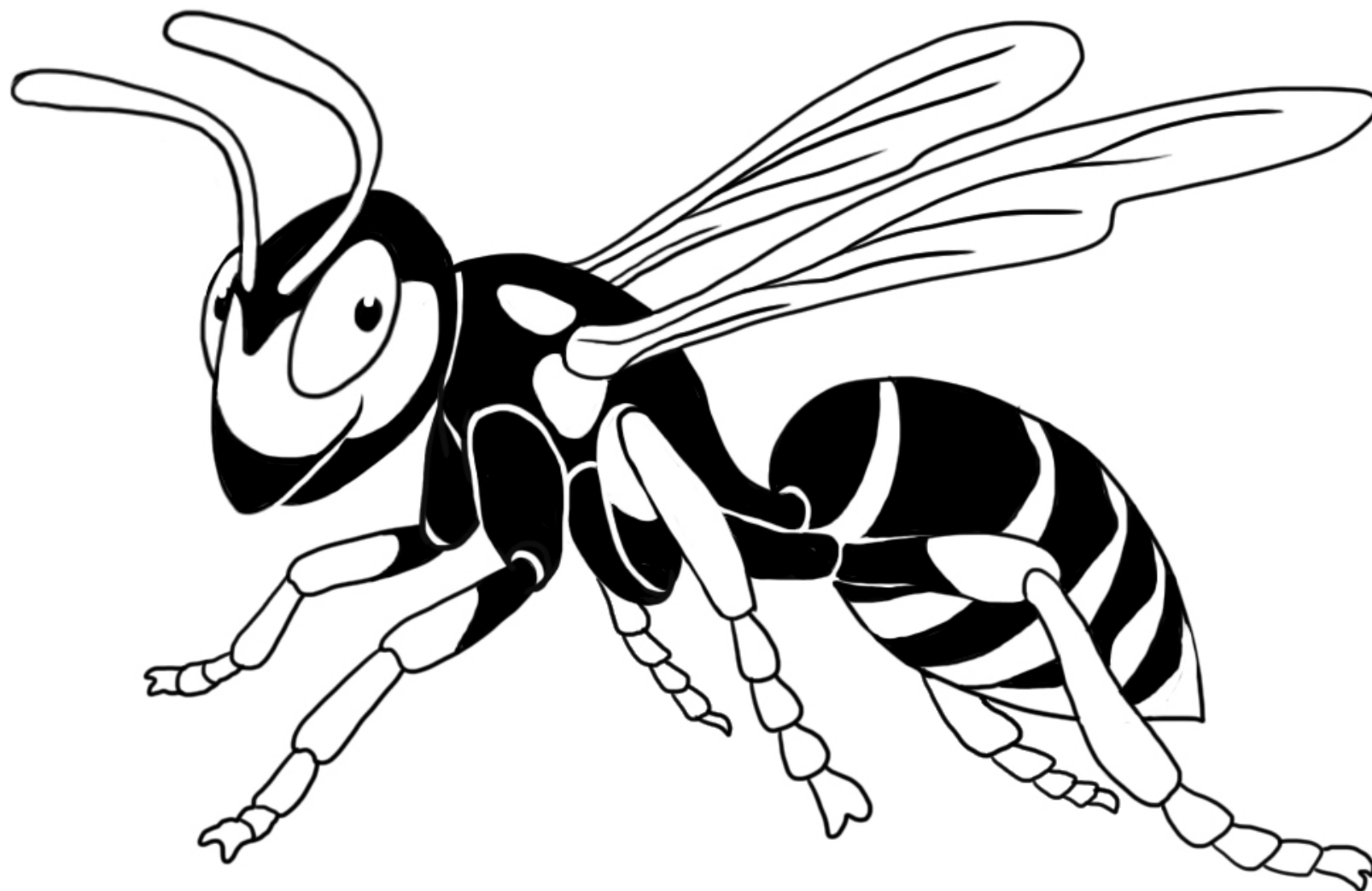


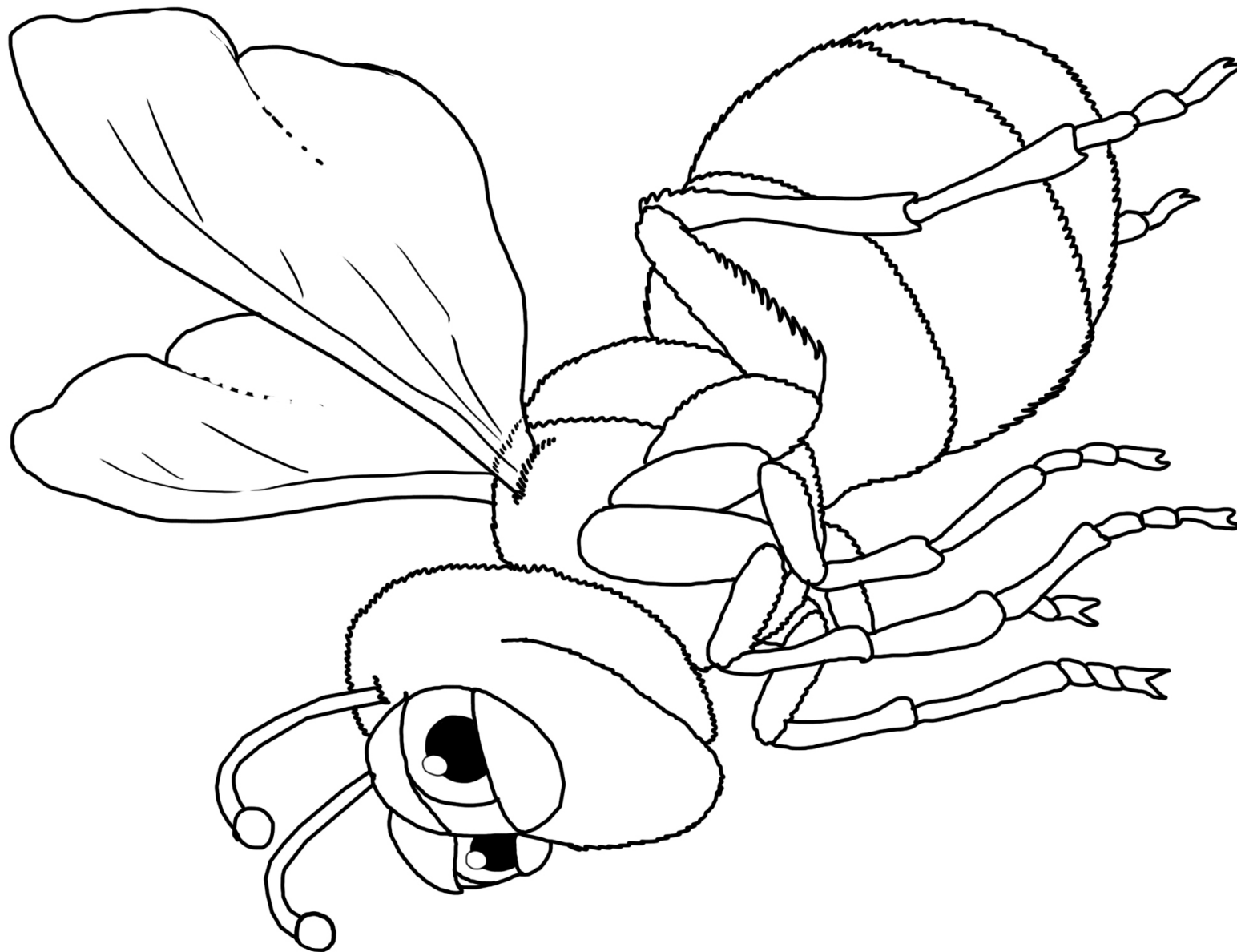


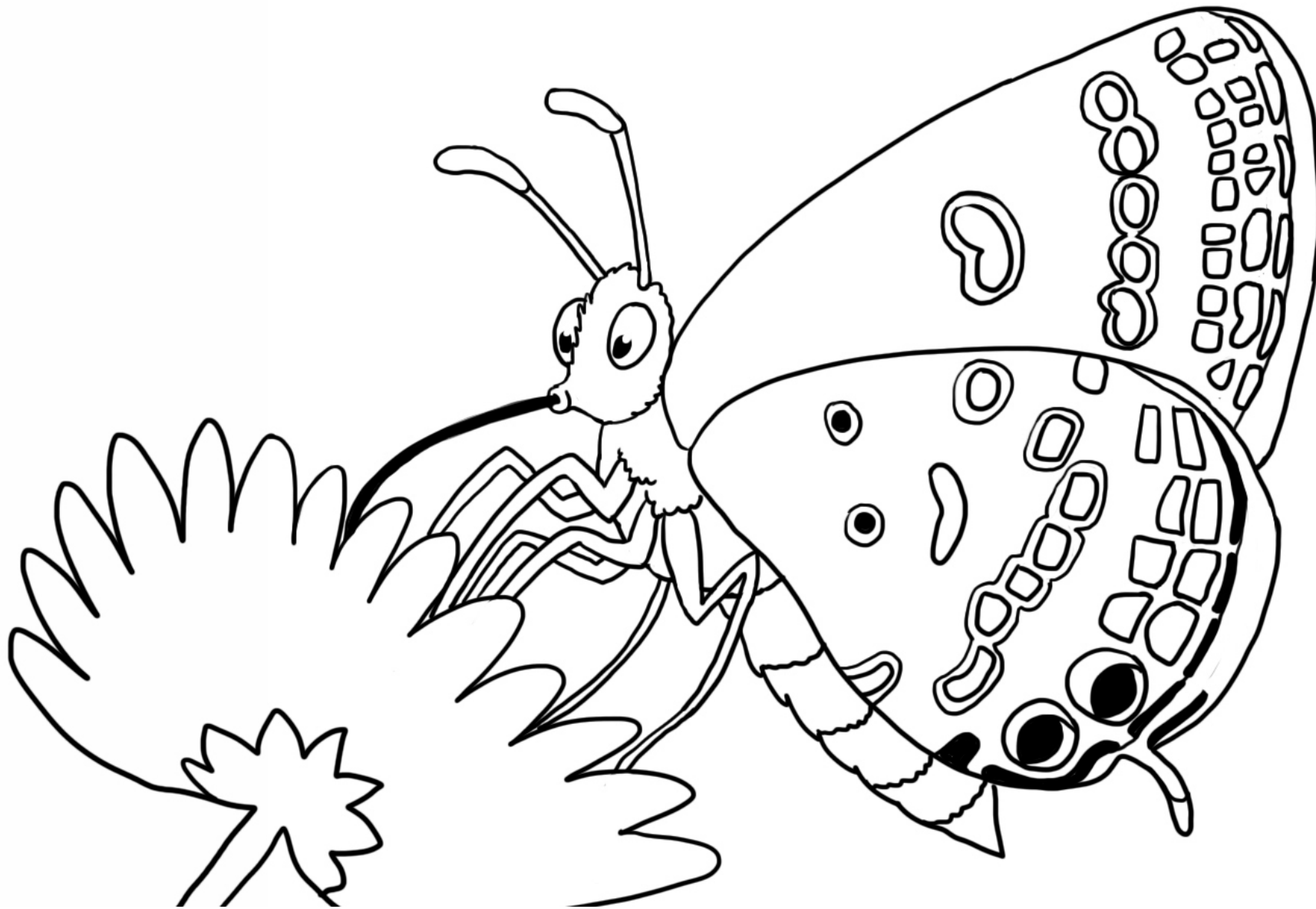












Pollinator plants

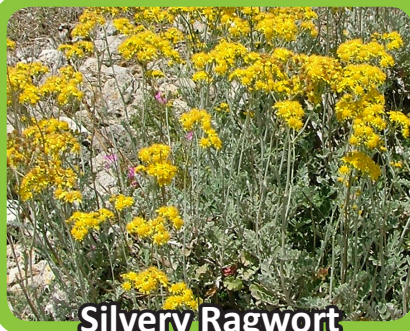
Maltese flowering plants you can grow

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!



Myrtle

Maltese name
Riĥan
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
Fejġel
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





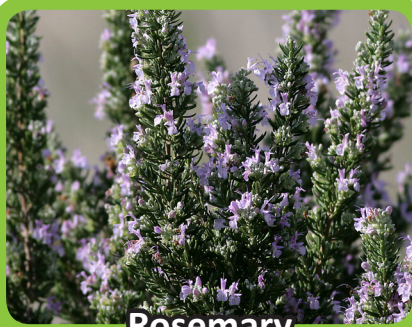
Branched Asphodel

Maltese name Berwieq
Scientific name
Asphodelus aestivus
Type Bulb plant, leaves at base,
 tall flowers
Flowering period Jan to Apr
Colour of flower White with
 brown stripes



Sea Daffodil

Maltese name
 Pankrazju
Scientific name
Pancratium maritimum
Type Bulb plant, leaves at base
Flowering period Jun to Sep
Colour of flower White



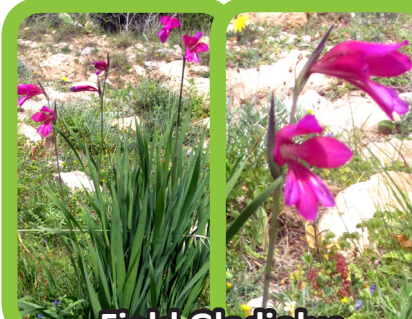
Rosemary

Maltese name
 Klin
Scientific name
Rosmarinus officinalis
Type Small/medium shrub
Flowering period All year
Colour of flower Lilac



Wall Snapdragon

Maltese name
 Papoċċi Bajda
Scientific name
Antirrhinum siculum
Type Small shrub
Flowering period Mar to Sep
Colour of flower White + yellow



Field Gladiolus

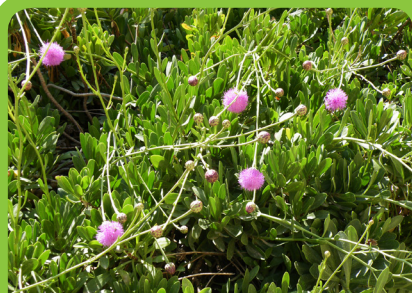
Maltese name
 Habb il-Qamħ tar-Raba'
Scientific name
Gladiolus italicus
Type Bulb plant, leaves at base,
 tall flowers
Flowering period Apr to May
Colour of flower Dark pink



Hoary Rock-rose

Maltese name
 Ċistu Roża
Scientific name
Cistus creticus
Type Small shrub
Flowering period Feb to Jun
Colour of flower Pink + yellow





Maltese Rock-centaury

Maltese name
Widnet il-Baħar
Scientific name
Cheirolophus crassifolius
Type Small shrub
Flowering period May to Jul
Colour of flower Pink



White Hedge-nettle

Maltese name
Te Sqalli
Scientific name
Prasium majus
Type Small shrub
Flowering period Dec to Jun
Colour of flower White



Evergreen Honeysuckle

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



Olive-leaved Germander

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



Shrubby Kidney-vetch

Maltese name
Haħba s-Sewda
Scientific name
Anthyllis hermanniae
Type Small shrub
Flowering period Apr to May
Colour of flower Yellow



Yellow-leaved Germander

Maltese name
Borġhom
Scientific name
Teucrium flavum
Type Small shrub
Flowering period May to Jul
Colour of flower White/Yellow





Narrow-leaved Rock-rose

Maltese name
Ċistu Abjad

Scientific name
Cistus monspeliensis

Type Small shrub

Flowering period Mar to May

Colour of flower White + yellow



Sweet Alison

Maltese name
Buttuniera

Scientific name
Lobularia maritima

Type Low shrub

Flowering period Oct to Jun

Colour of flower White



Greater Snapdragon

Maltese name
Papoċċi Hamra

Scientific name
Antirrhinum tortuosum

Type Small shrub

Flowering period All year

Colour of flower Pink



Golden Samphire

Maltese name
Xorbett

Scientific name
Limbarda crithmoides

Type Small shrub

Flowering period Oct to Dec

Colour of flower Yellow + orange



Common Smilax

Maltese name
Pajżana

Scientific name
Smilax aspera

Type Thorny climber

Flowering period Sep to Nov

Colour of flower Yellow/white



Great Sage

Maltese name
Salvja tal-Madonna

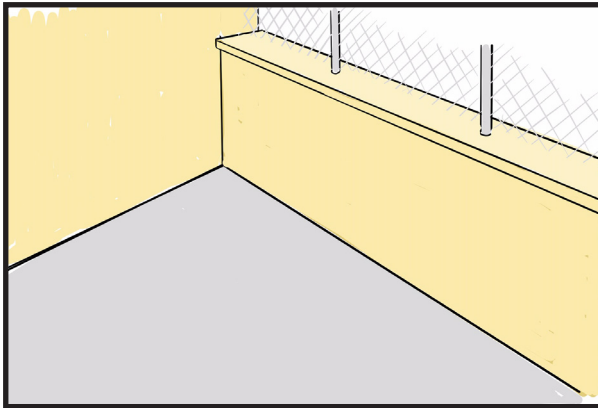
Scientific name
Phlomis fruticosa

Type Small shrub

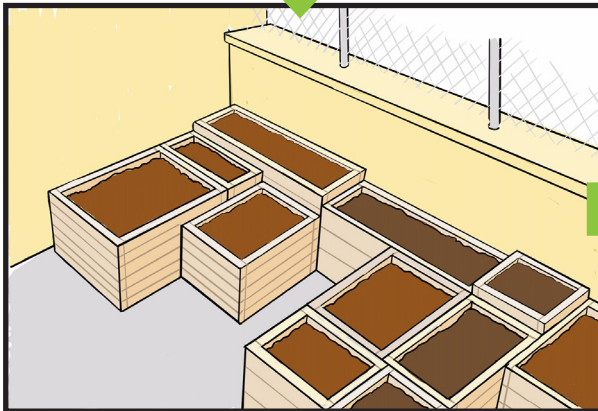
Flowering period Apr to Jun

Colour of flower Yellow





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.

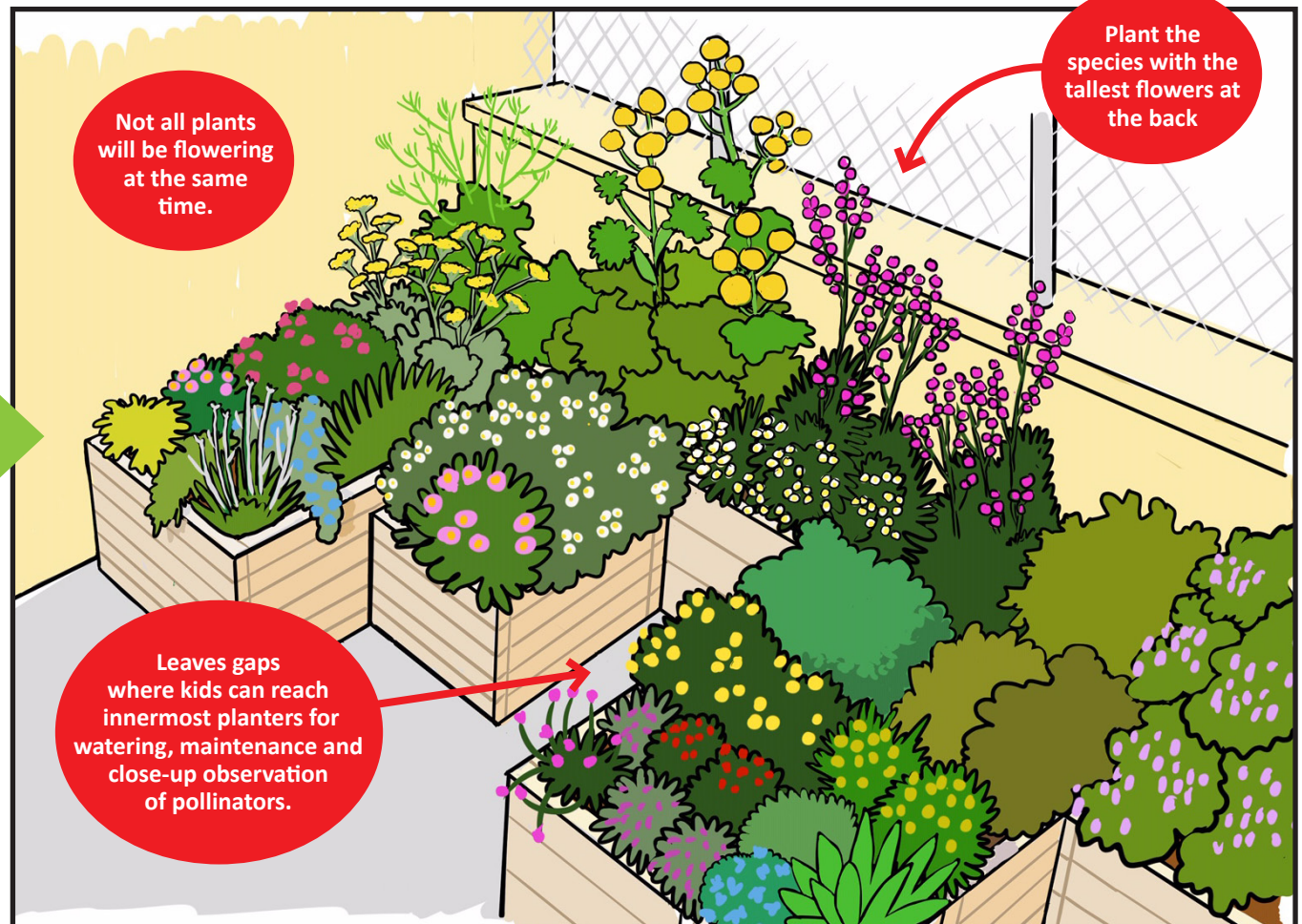


Oblong planters are best for this arrangement. Unlike round pots, they use up all the space and fit together like a jigsaw puzzle. Get your kids to help out with the plan. It's important that this becomes *their* project, that they feel proud of their creation, and happy that they helped scores of insects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



Pollinator Station

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.



Pollinator Res

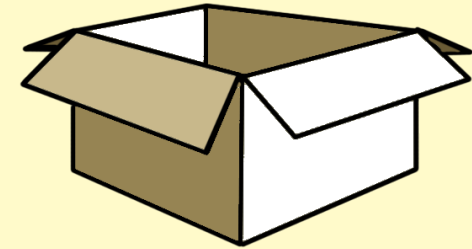
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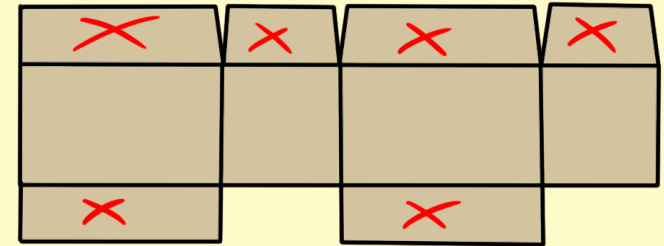
Make a mini display module



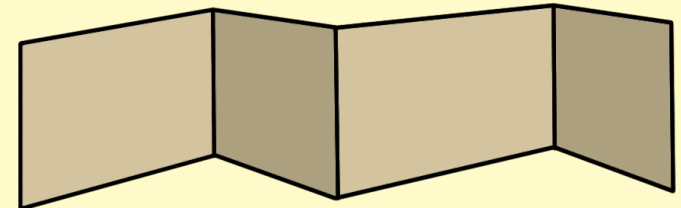
A



B



C



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 Waħda
school



This is a
Dinja Waħda
class





Din skola
Dinja Waħda



Din klassi
Dinja Waħda