These flowers are commonly found in the Sydney region in winter.

Hibbertia scandens

Epacris longiflora

Woollsia pungens

Grevillea oleoides

Isopogon

Crowea saligna

Jacksonia scoparia

Eucalyptus leucoxylon

Pultanaea polyfolia

Correa reflexa

Acacia ulicifolia

Banksia ericifolia

Plant2pollinator Field Investigation

A guide to studying insect pollinators in the field.

www.australianmuseum.net.au/Bugwise/

This field activity **has been designed to supplement Plant2pollinator – a suite of ideas and resources for investigating insect diversity.**

More information:

www.australianmuseum.net.au/Welcome-to-Plant2pollinator/

It has been written for stages 2-4 and can be used in native gardens, vegetable gardens or exotic gardens.

For more information about flowering times go to:

www.australianmuseum.net.au/document/Flower-and-insect-calendar/

The keys and other resources have been researched and designed by Phoebe Meagher, Sue Lewis and Geoff Gardner as part of the *BugWise for Schools* project, 2009-2010

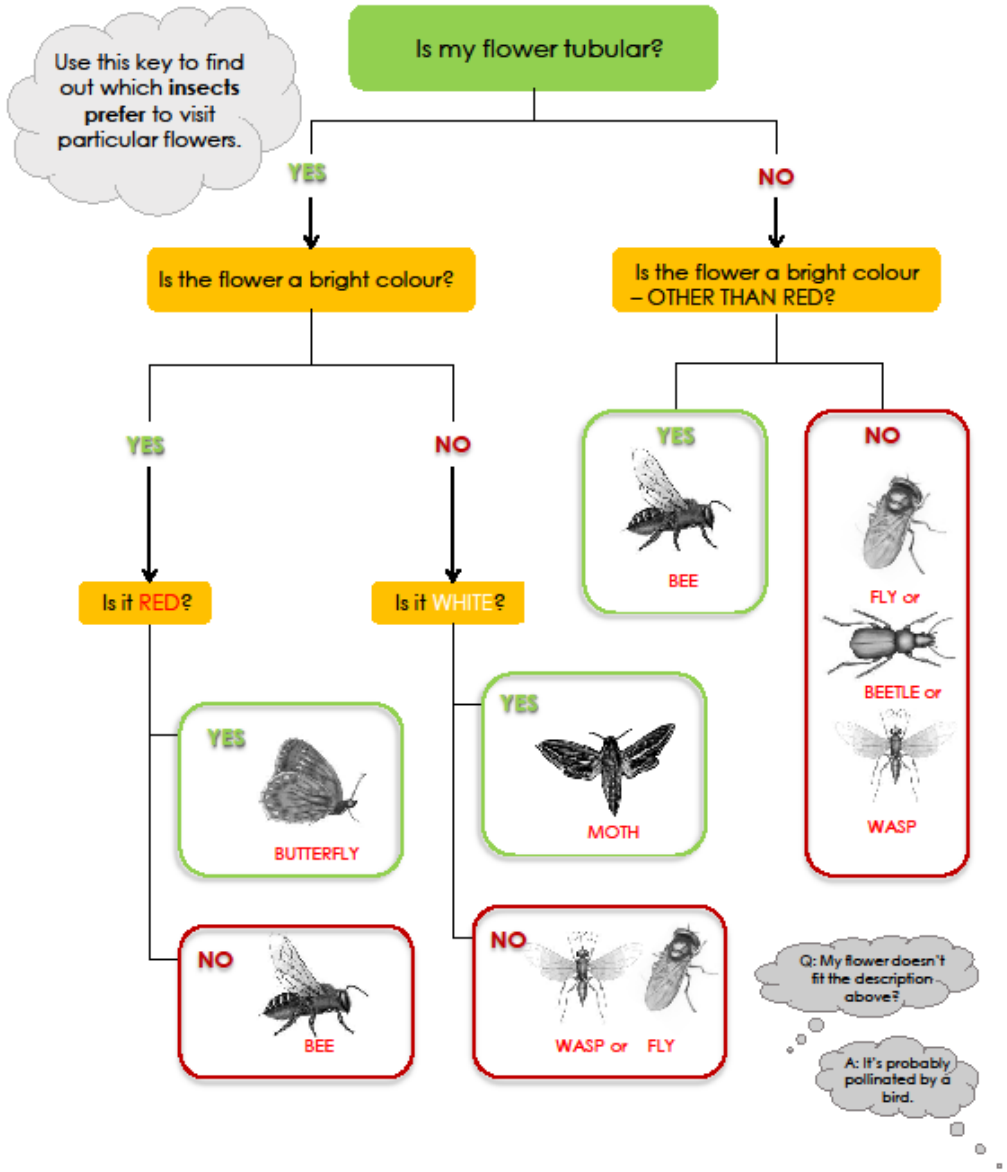
BugWise for Schools **has been made possible due funding from the Environmental Trust.**

Bugwise

Environmental TRUST

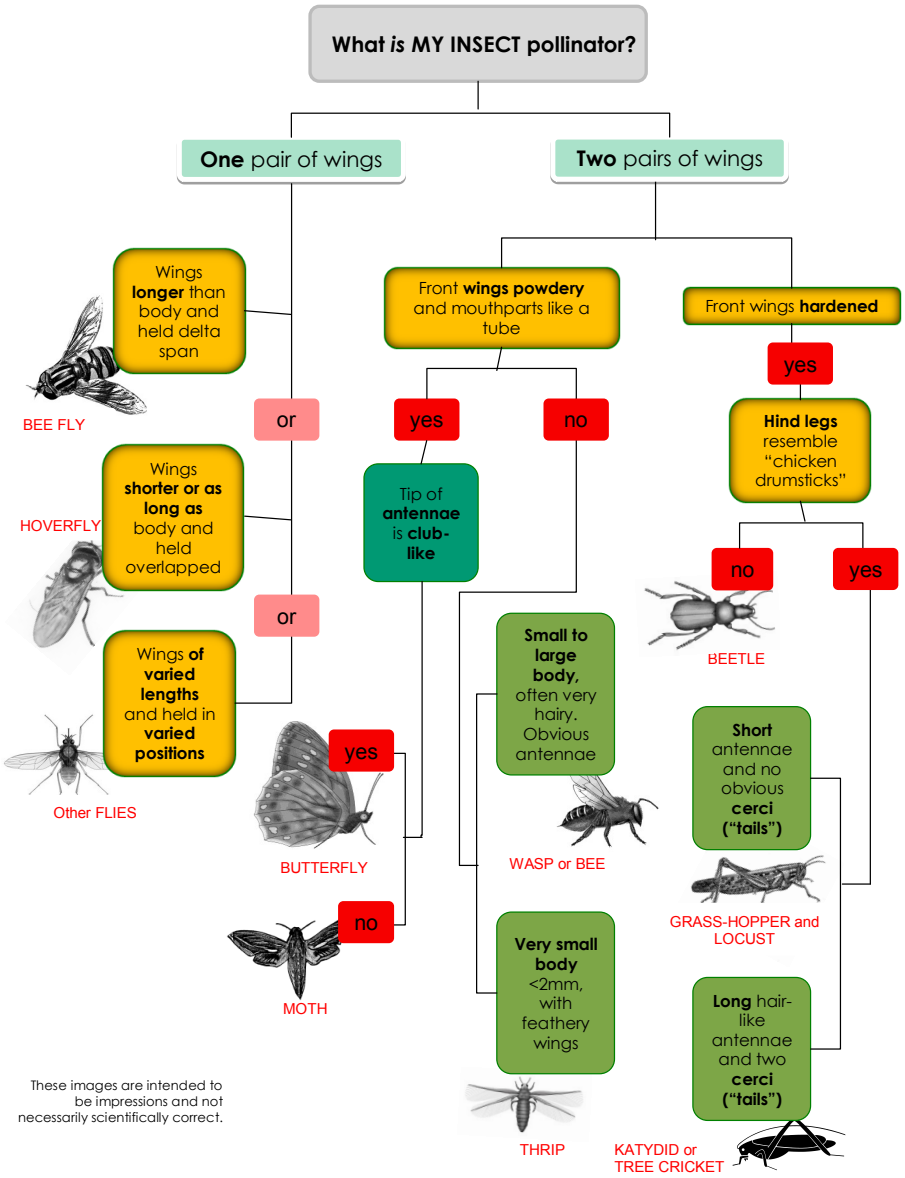
Australian museum nature culture discover

Pollinator **Preference** Key



All insects which visit flowers are potential pollinators (pollen carriers), however some insects have a **preference** for shapes and colours. It is probably those preferred flowers that they most efficiently pollinate.

Insect Pollinator **Identification** Key



These images are intended to be impressions and not necessarily scientifically correct.

Bugwise

Environmental TRUST

Australian museum nature culture discover

Focus Question:
What pollinators are in your local environment?

What you need

1. Observation **matrix**
2. Pollinator preference **key**
3. Insect pollinator identification **key**
4. Flower photo id chart (optional)

Where to start

1. Find a flower and fill in the observation matrix.
2. Use the insect pollinator key to identify insects.
3. Use the pollinator preference key to predict what insect may pollinate that flower

Follow up questions

- What is the most common insect in your area?
- How many different insects did you find?
- What do you think it means to have many different flowers and insects in your area?
- Do all insects pollinate?
- When there are not many insects about (usually in cold weather), what insects would you predict to pollinate your flowers?
- How do flowers attract insects?
- What types of flowers could you plant to attract certain insects?

Ideas for long term studies

Compare flower and insect types between seasons

Compare flower and insect types in non-impacted (bush/garden) to impacted sites (construction)

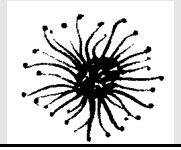
Compare flower and insect types before and after the planting of a new vegetation patch.

More ideas?

www.australianmuseum.net.au/Predicting-insect-pollinators-Stage-4

Flowers and Insects Observation Matrix

Date:	**Time:**	**Weather details:**	**Location:**

Flower Shape/Size (draw/describe)	**Colour** (bright or dull)	**Flower Scent** (sweet, citrus, pungent)	**Plant Name**	**Insect Behaviour** (flying, sitting, walking, watching, eating)	**Insect Name** (use insect Pollinator ID key)	**Predicted Insect Pollinator** (use pollinator preference key)
For example:- 	Bright yellow	sweet	wattle	-Bees hover around -Tiny mites crawling amongst stamens -Beetles eating	Bee Thrips Beetles Ants	Bee