

Promoting pollinators:

Active management to support pollinator
species in agricultural landscapes

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Why look at pollination?



- Yield and quality



Decline

- Habitat loss is believed to be the major driver of pollinator decline
- Agricultural intensification



What are pollinators?



Bees

- 16% of all flower species are bee dependent
- Bumblebee Solitary bee Honey bee



In all, 267 species recorded in the UK

- 77% of food commodities are reliant on bees



Nesting habitat

- 3 major rules:
 - Undisturbed ground
 - Near flower resource
 - Provide suitable nesting materials - mud, leaves...
- Agricultural nesting resource:
 - Woodland edge
 - Hedges
 - That old bit of land behind the barn?



Artificial habitat

- Bee keeping well documented and expanded in the 17th century









Forage

- The provision of pollinator forage throughout the season
- Any plant mixture should support the whole life cycle of a species





Role of legume leys

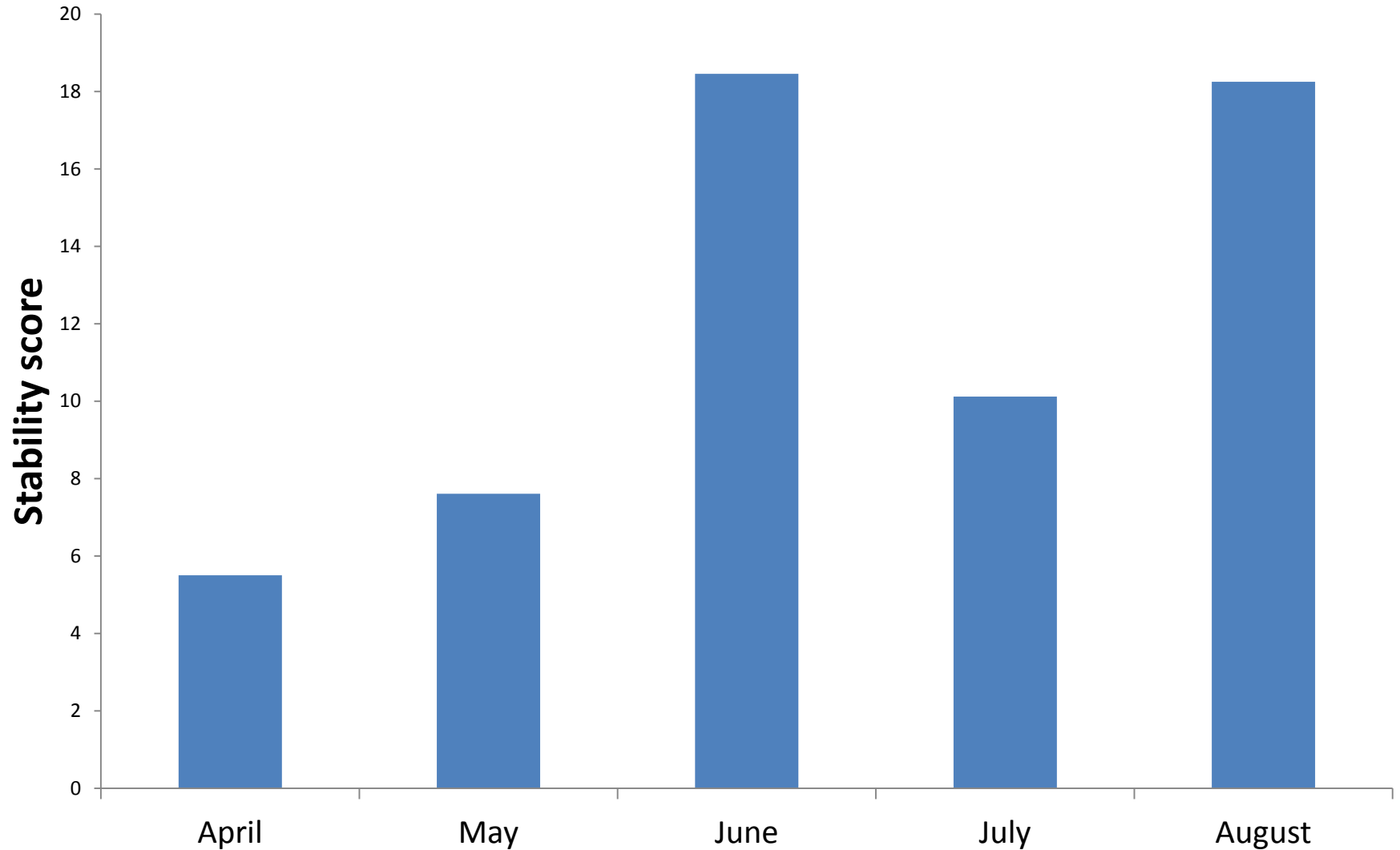


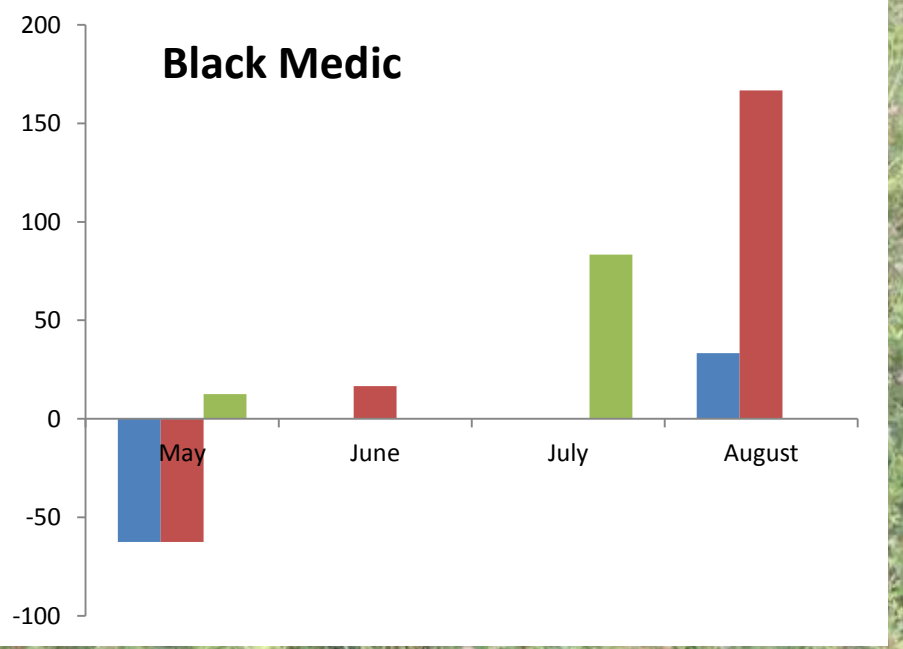
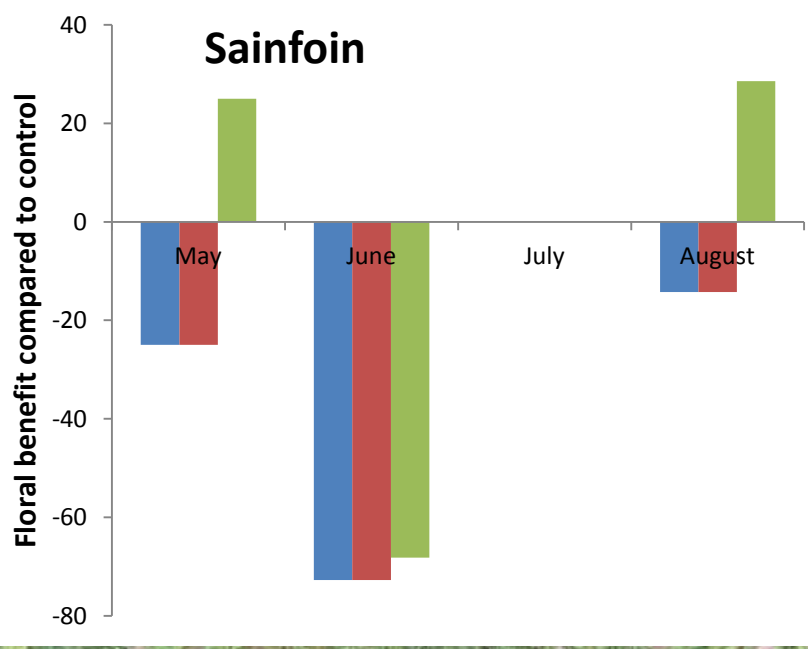
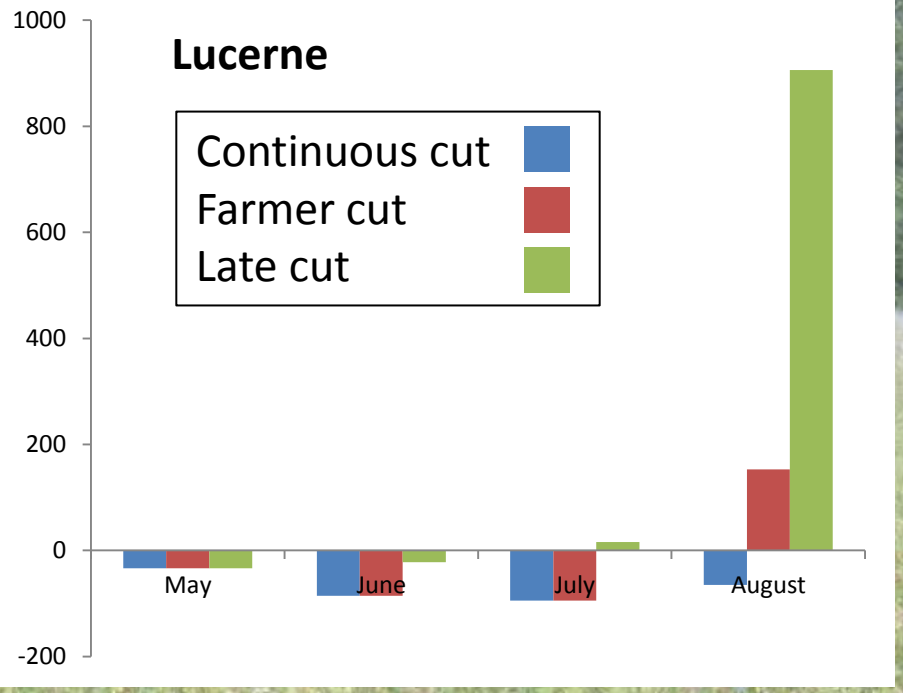
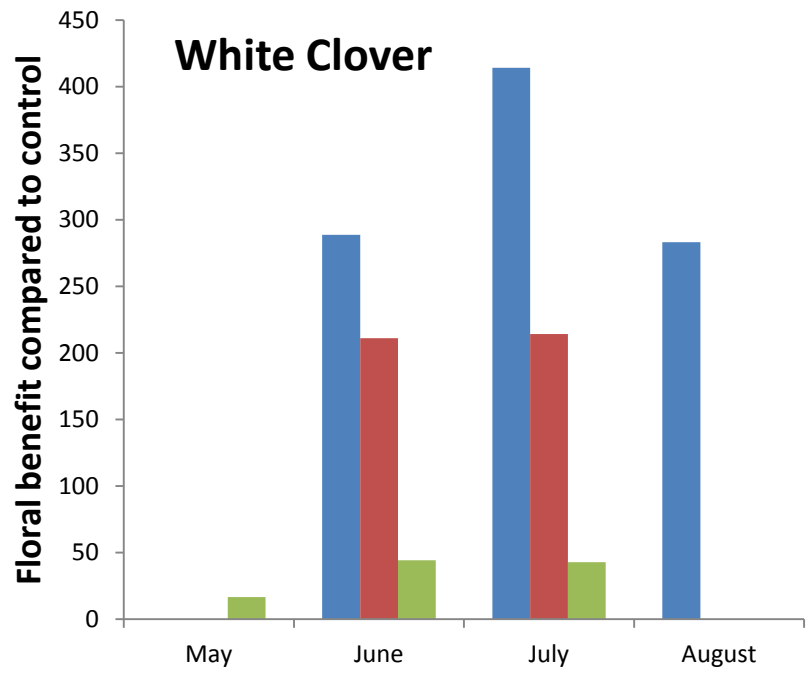
Forage and LegumeLINK



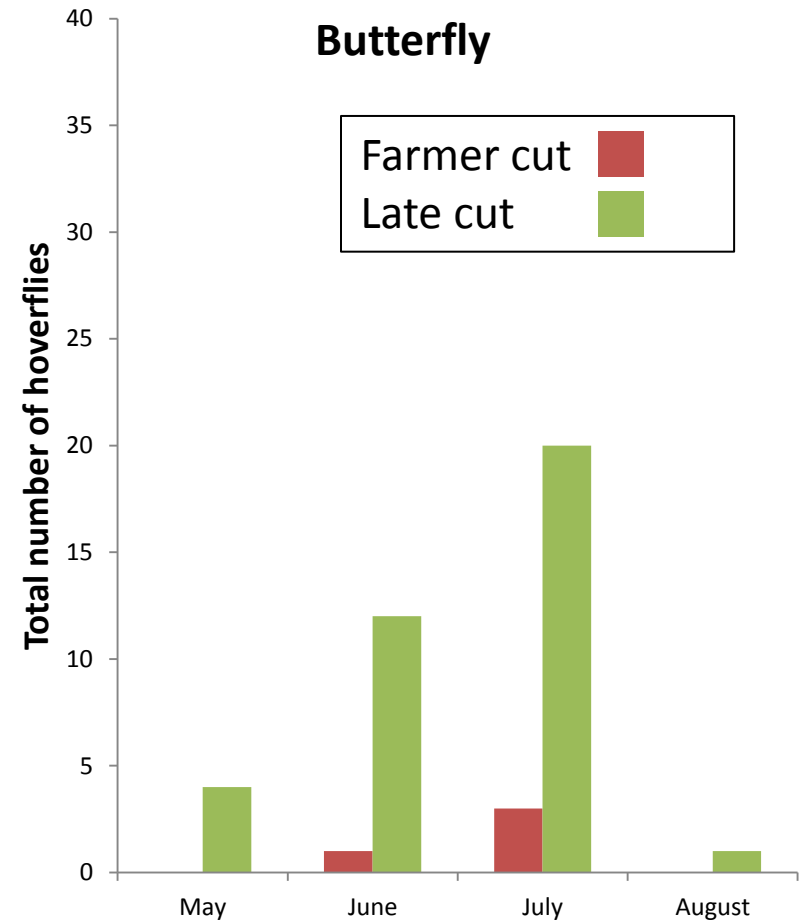
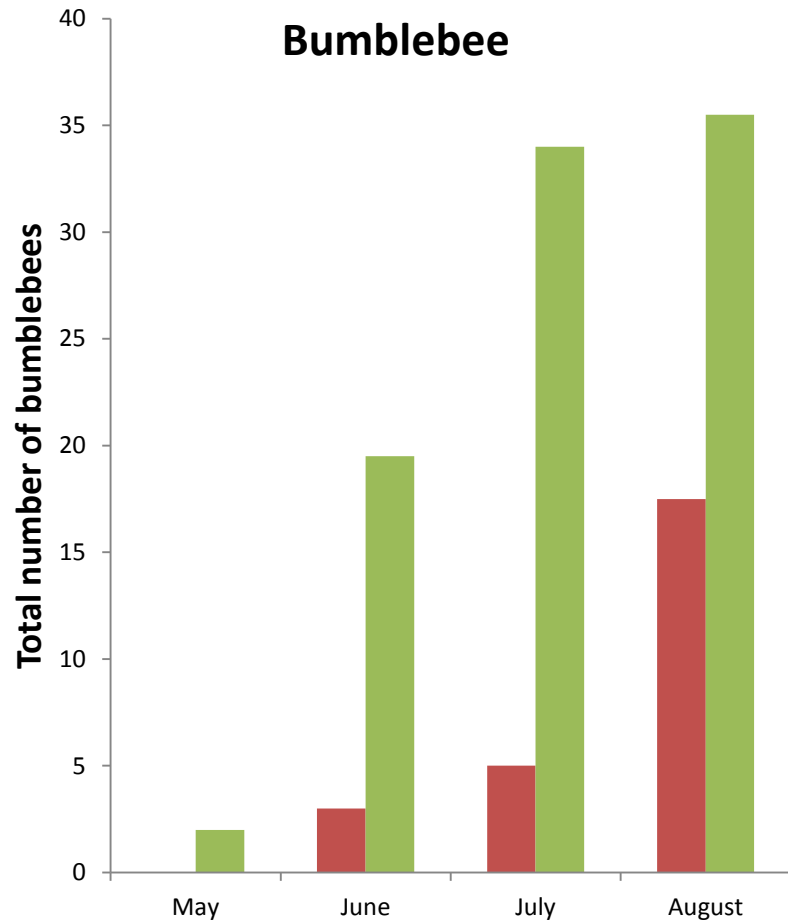
Stability

All species mixture





Pollinator response to management



Why look at pollination?

- High levels of pollination increase yield and quality of crop = £, \$ and €
- To promote pollinators we must understand all their requirements:
 - undisturbed suitable nesting habitat
 - year-round forage
 - pollinator-sensitive management
- Other benefits: pest control, ‘bird food’, aesthetics



Acknowledgements

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