



THE BEES THAT MAKE

Christmas

1

Holly & Ivy

To produce holly berries, we need bees to pollinate the flowers. Ivy has its own special pollinator the Ivy Mining Bee *Colletes Hedera* which only collects pollen from Ivy.

2

Turkey

Turkeys need the assistance of bees to exist. The crops that typically feed our Turkeys ready for Christmas are heavily reliant on Honey Bees, *Andrena* and *Osmia* bees for pollination.

4

Carrots & Parsnips

Being roots, they don't require pollination to be edible. However, the plants do require pollination by many small solitary bee species to produce seeds for commercial growing.

3

Stuffing

Sage, cloves and onions require bees to pollinate them. The Onion Yellow Faced Bee *Hylaeus Punctulatus* collects its pollen exclusively from onions, but is sadly thought to be extinct in the UK.

7

Brazil Nuts & Almonds

Brazil Nuts are pollinated by Orchid Bees and Almonds are pollinated by Honeybees, Bumble Bees and *Osmia* Bees. Each year in California 81 billion honeybees pollinate over 2,5 trillion Almond blooms.

5

Roast Potatoes

The potatoe is the world's fourth most eaten foodstuff. The part of the plant we eat is not a pollinated fruit, but bees are necessary to breed new varieties of potato and are used to pollinate breeder plants.

8

Apples & Oranges

Apples are an essential ingredient of Christmas mince pies. Whilst honey bees are used to pollinate commercial apples the Orchard Mason Bee *Osmia* is so much more efficient in that 300 bees can perform the pollination role of 90,000 honey bees.

6

Cherries

An ingredient of Christmas cake & pudding, cherries are pollinated by a variety of bees including *Andrena* Mining bees, Bumble bees and Mason Bees. The Red Mason Honey bees are often used commercially to pollinate Cherries.

12

Candles

It's not just the wax used to make candles which comes from bees, Christmas candles are often scented with festive spices such as Vanilla. Vanilla comes from the pod of a tropical climbing orchid and is pollinated by the stingless *Meliponini* bees.

9

Sprouts

Though the parts of the plant we eat are not reliant on pollination, bees are required to produce seed from which the crop is grown. Farmers often rely on managed honey bees or solitary bees for pollination

10

Roast Chestnuts

The smell of chestnuts roasting on an open fire is a sure sign that winter and Christmas has arrived. Chestnuts can be boiled or roasted and are often used in stuffing mixtures. Many bees visit the flowers

11

Cranberries

Several species of wild bee are important in the production of Cranberries. This fruit requires 'buzz pollination' which only a select few bees are capable of achieving. Among them is The Rusty Patch Bumble Bee, which is now facing extinction.

