


What is harming insects?

Action for Insects Session 4 — Resource 2



State of insects

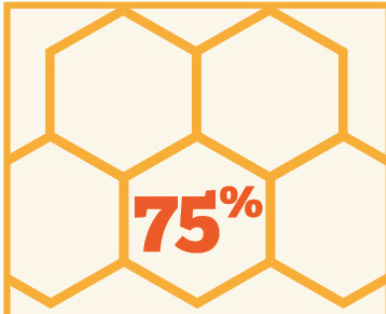
Insects are dying out up to **8 times** faster than larger animals




41%
of insect species face extinction



Some bee and flower-visiting wasp species have gone **extinct in the UK** since 1850



75%
A survey of honey samples from around the world reveals that **75% contain neonicotinoid insecticides**




46%
DECLINE
Overall UK butterflies have declined by **46%**




The **red-backed shrike**, a specialist predator of large insects went **EXTINCT** in the UK in the 1990s



Number of **pesticide applications** has approximately **doubled** over the last 25 years

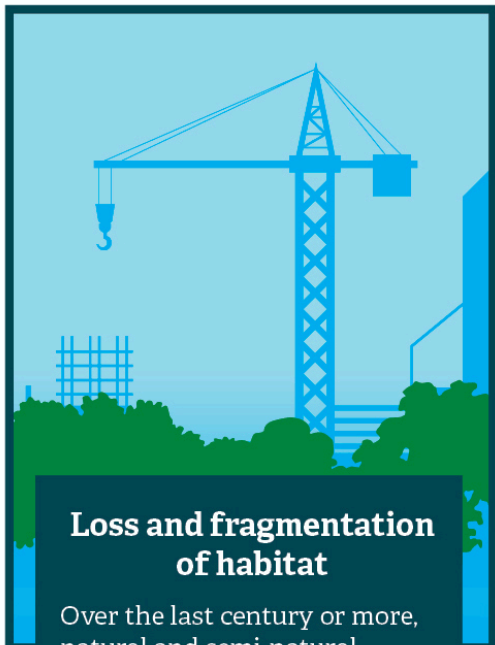


93%
DECLINE
UK population of **spotted flycatcher** declined by **93%** between 1967 and 2016



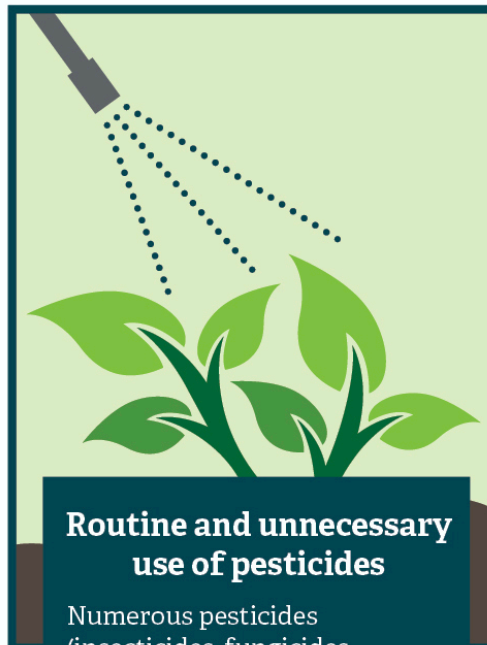
Once-common insect eating birds have massively declined in the UK: **grey partridge 92%**, **nightingale 93%** and **cuckoo 77%**

What is causing insect declines?



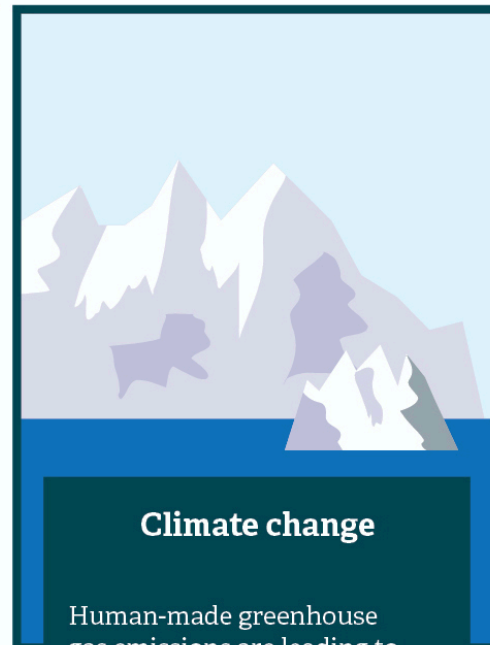
Loss and fragmentation of habitat

Over the last century or more, natural and semi-natural habitats have been lost, depleted and fragmented as a direct result of human activity. The health of the natural environment has been very low on the list of priorities when it comes to the development of our towns and cities, new housing, transport infrastructure and the way we produce food.



Routine and unnecessary use of pesticides

Numerous pesticides (insecticides, fungicides and herbicides) are freely available from garden centres, DIY stores and even supermarkets. Pesticides associated with intensive farming are implicated in driving declines of bees and other insects.



Climate change

Human-made greenhouse gas emissions are leading to climate change on a global scale. The impact of this is being seen on the range of some insects (areas they are found in), which have started to shift. For example European and North American bumblebees are starting to disappear from the southern edges of their range.



16.9 thousand tons of pesticides are sprayed every year across our countryside. That doesn't include what we use in our gardens, towns and cities!



97% of our wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930s.

94% of the UK's lowland peat bogs have been destroyed or damaged.

87% of the world's wetlands are gone...

Reliance on harmful chemicals and pollution

What is harming insects?

Loss of habitat and habitat broken up



Chemicals, soils running off the land, plastic rubbish washing downstream... all mean that most UK rivers are not in a good condition and lots of our water insects are under threat.

Climate change

Because we are putting insects under pressure, they are less able to cope with climate change.

