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ABUZZ *with* NECTARING

late summer sees much activity on flowering ivy

Often mistaken for bees or wasps, hoverfly are busy at this time of the year 'Nectaring' in the garden, ivy seeming to be particularly popular

You can't fail to notice the buzzing sound emanating from feeding hoverflies, particularly if the sun's out which seems to make these insects particularly frenetic in their feeding. Hopefully your garden has some part reserved as being 'nature

friendly', sadly, too many gardens today are barren wastelands supporting nothing but grass (or worse still, the current trend is nylon grass). Hoverflies are true flies, having only one pair of wings (bees and wasps have

two) and yes, they hover, with a wingbeat of 120 per second and maximum flight speed measured at 3.5 metres per second. Their larvae are voracious aphid eaters, so gardeners should welcome this noisy ally. Editor