

The Buzz About Native Bees by Chriss Daubner

Plants for Bees--Keeping continuous bloom

There are several native trees and shrubs that provide food for bees. Trees include Salix discolor-pussy willow, Amelanchier arborea-downy serviceberry, Prunus spp-plum and cherry trees, and Tilia americana, American basswood. Shrubs include Vaccinium-blueberries, Ceanothus americanus-New Jersey tea, and Rosa spp.-Carolina, swamp rose.

Month(s) of Bloom for Some Bee Attracting Plants

The great majority of plants that provide food for bees are herbaceous flowering plants. I have included some that are especially attractive to bees. Most of the following plants attract ten or more species of bees. Some of the early spring flowering plants attract fewer species of bees. Fewer species of bees are active in early spring. Those with green highlighting are prairie plants, the brown are woodland edge and the blue are wetland edge. The information in this chart is taken mainly from Pollinators of Native Plants by Heather Holm

Botanical Name	Common Name	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly Weed				Green	Green			
Coreopsis palmata	Prairie Coreopsis				Green	Green			
Dalea purpurea	Purple Prairie Clover				Green				
Echinacea pallida	Pale Purple Coneflower				Green				
Eryngium yuccifolium	Rattlesnake Master					Green	Green		
Eurybia macrophylla	Large-leaved Aster					Green	Green	Green	
Geranium maculatum	Wild Geranium		Brown	Brown					
Heliopsis helianthoides	False Sunflower					Green	Green		
Monarda fistulosa	Wild Bergamot					Green	Green	Green	
Osmorhiza longistylus	Sweet Cicely			Brown					
Parthenium integrifolium	Wild Quinine				Green	Green	Green		
Penstemon digitalis	Smooth Penstemon			Green	Green	Green			
Polemonium reptans	Jacob's Ladder			Brown	Brown				
Pycnanthemum virginianum	Mountain Mint					Blue	Blue		
Ratibida pinnata	Yellow Coneflower					Green	Green	Green	
Rudbeckia hirta	Black-eyed Susan				Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Sanguinaria canadensis	Bloodroot	Brown	Brown						
Silphium perfoliatum	Cup Plant					Blue	Blue		
Solidago rigida	Stiff Goldenrod					Green	Green	Green	Green
Symphotrichum novae-angliae	New England Aster						Blue	Blue	Blue
Verbena hastata	Blue Vervain					Blue	Blue	Blue	
Verbena stricta	Hoary Vervain					Green	Green	Green	
Zizia aurea	Golden Alexander			Green	Green	Green			

This table was done using Microsoft Word. Start with plants you already have that might attract bees and chart them by bloom time. Then you know what months you might need to add to have continuous bloom. You can check at nurseries, online or in catalogs to find plants that bloom during the needed months. Remember it is best to have two or three plants blooming at a given time. This works for butterflies and other pollinators as well as bees.

Resources for Information on Native Bees and Plants

Articles/Factsheets/Bulletins

Nests for Native Bees by Matthew Shepherd; The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

What's the Buzz on....Planting a Bee Garden By Stephen Buchmann; <http://gears.tucson.ars.gov/na/bgarden.html>

Pollinators by Christy Stewart, UW Horticulture and USDA-ARS; UW Extension Fact Sheet
<http://hort.uwex.edu/articles/pollinators>

Wisconsin Spring Bee Guide <https://energy.wisc.edu/bee-guide/>

Wisconsin Pollinator Protection Plan; Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection, April 2016

Conserving Bumble Bees by Rich Hatfield, Sarina Jepson, Eric Mader, Scott Hoffman Black & Mathew Shephard; The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Books

*Pollinators of Native Plants by Heather Holm; Pollination Press LLC, Minnesota 2014

Guide to Bumble Bees of the Eastern United States by Sheila Colla, Leif Richardson & Paul Williams; A product of the USDA Forest Service and the Pollinator Partnership with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Bee Basics An Introduction to Our Native Bees by Beatriz Moissett, Ph.D. & Stephen Buchmann, Ph.D.; A USDA Forest Service and Pollinator Partnership Publication

Websites

www.PollinatorsNativePlants.com

www.pollinator.org

www.xerces.org

Nurseries/Mail-order Catalogs for Native Plants

Door Landscape & Nursery, Egg Harbor, WI www.doorlandscape.com

Prairie Moon Nursery-Winona, MN www.prairiemoon.com

Prairie Nursery-Westfield, WI www.prairienursery.com

Prairie Restorations-Princeton, MN www.prairieresto.com

Stone Silo Prairie Nursery-DePere, WI www.stonesiloprairie.com

“Nature—wild nature—dwells in gardens just as she dwells in the tangled woods, in the deeps of the sea, and on the heights of the mountains; and the wilder the garden, the more you will see of her there.”

Adventures in Green Places, Herbert Ravenel Sass (1884-1958), American nature writer