

BEE- Attracting Plant List

The following list shows bloom periods for BEE-attracting plants. Try to have something blooming from late winter through late fall to encourage all the native pollinators as well as the honey bees. When selecting plants for your Bee Landscape, know that some species need more sun or moisture than others. Know your conditions and visit Ward's Nursery with an outline of what you need. These plants are available at Ward's usually right before and during their bloom time.

BLOOM TIME for HARDY TREES and SHRUBS (MOSTLY NATIVE):

LATE WINTER – EARLY SPRING

Acer sacharum or Acer pensylvanicum – Maple- Sugar or Striped
Hamamelis vernalis - Early spring-blooming Witchhazels
Salix – Willows like Pussy Willow (discolor) or Black Willow (nigra)
Viburnum acerifolium --Mapleleaf Viburnum
Viburnum cassinoides-- Witherod Viburnum
Viburnum dentatum-- Arrowwood
Viburnum lentago—Nannyberry
Viburnum opulus var. American Cranberrybush

SPRING

Amelanchier canadensis – Serviceberry
Aronia melanocarpa -- Black Chokeberry
Cephalanthus occidentalis – Buttonbush
Lindera benzoin – Spicebush
Liriodendron tulipifera – Tulip tree
Malus 'Golden Raindrops' – Golden Raindrops crabapples
Malus 'Snowdrift' – crabapple with good fall color, too.
Vaccinium corymbosum --Highbush Blueberry
Fruit-bearing trees like, apples, cherries, peaches and pears

LATE SPRING – SUMMER

Clethra alnifolia—Summersweet
Cornus amomum --Silky Dogwood
Cornus racemosa -- Gray Dogwood
Cornus sericea – Red-twig Dogwood
Ilex glabra – Inkberry
Ilex verticillata-- Winterberry
Kalmia latifolia – Mountain Laurel
Lonicera sempervirens-- Honeysuckle (vine)
Oxydendrum arboreum – Sourwood

Ward's Where Gardeners Grow: Plant list supplied by Ward's Nursery & Garden Center, 600 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230. www.wardsnursery.com. 413-528-0166

Physocarpus opulifolius – Ninebark
Rosa palustris -- Swamp Rose
Rhododendron viscosum -- Swamp Azalea
Rubus odoratus -- Purple-Flowering Raspberry
Rhus aromatica – Fragrant Sumac

FALL

Hamamelis virginiana – Fall-blooming Witchhazel

Bloom Times for PERENNIALS and EASY ANNUALS

LATE WINTER - EARLY SPRING (best planted in fall before ground freezes)

Crocus
Chionodoxa - Glory of the Snow
Hellebore –Lenten Rose (available in spring to be planted after thaw).

SPRING

Aurinia saxitalis -- Basket-of-Gold
Ajugas
Doronicum- Leopard's Bane
Polemonium caeruleum - Jacob's Ladder
Dicentra - Bleeding Heart
Dandelions!!
Papaver orientale - Oriental Poppy

EARLY to MID SUMMER

Agastache foeniculum -- Anise Hyssop
Alliums (chives can be allowed to bloom and then cut back)
Asclepias - Milkweed family, including Butterflyweed
Cosmos
Centaurea montana --Mountain Bluet or Bachelor's Button
Echinops - Globe Thistle
Geranium – Crane's bill
Lavandula angustifolia 'Hidcote' or 'Munstead'- Hardier Lavenders
Mertensia virginica – Virginia Bluebells
Monarda didyma- Bee Balm (limited attraction to honeybees)
Monarda fistulosa - Bergamot
Salvias - Sages
Thymus sp. -Thymes (cut back for re-bloom)

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LATE SUMMER

Boltonia asteroides – Boltonia or false chamomile

Echinacea – Coneflower

Eupatorium maculatum- Joe-Pye Weed

Helianthus annuus - Common Sunflower (choose heirloom varieties, not fancy pollen-less varieties)

Herb flowers, including borage, oregano, mints and rosemary – (hold basil for late autumn bloom.)

Perovskia - Russian Sage

Phlox davidii – Summer Phlox

Potentilla - Beardtongue

Solidago canadensis - Golden Rod

AUTUMN

Aster novae-angliae – Native Asters

Clematis - Sweet Autumn - vine

Colchium autumnale – Autumn-blooming Crocus (simple variety)

Dendranthemum - Hardy Chrysanthemum

Eupatorium rugosum – White Snakeroot

Sedums

ALMOST ANYTIME

Heathers and Heaths (There are winter blooming varieties, as well as through the normal season)

And celebrate the dandelions and white clover! Bees love 'em!

Information and Plant lists selected from numerous sources:

Fiddlehead Creek, Native Plants, Hartford, NY. fiddleheadcreek.com

Green, Ruth, Green Arts Gardens, Monterey, Massachusetts.

Kujawski, Ronald. Massachusetts Garden Writer and Consultant, Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

<http://www.orchardbees.com/NativePollinators.html>

Rice, Grai St. Clair, HoneybeeLives.org. HoneybeeLives teaches Organic Beekeeping and provides apiary services with Bee Doctor Chris Harp.