



FEED THE BEES

Provide lots of nectar-rich blossoms for our local bees to enjoy

(These plants will also attract other pollinators like moths, flies, beetles, butterflies and hummingbirds)

Trees:

Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) *
 Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)
 Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) *
 Birch (*Betula*) Yellow, river, black
 Apple, Plum, Cherry (*Malus*, *Prunus*)
 Willow (*Salix*) *

Shrubs:

Abelia (*Abelia grandaeflora*)
 Holly (*Ilex* spp)
 Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)
 Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*)*
 Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*)*
 Raspberry, Blackberry (*Rubus*)

Flowers:

Asters *	Joe-Pye Weed (<i>Eupatorium dubium, fistulosum, maculatum</i>)*
Basil (<i>Ocimum</i> spp)	Lambs Ear (<i>Stachys byzantina</i>)
Bee Balm/Bergamot (<i>Monarda</i> spp) *	Larkspur, Obedient Plant (<i>Physotegia virginiana</i>)*
Borage (<i>Borago officinalis</i>)	Lavender (<i>Lavandula</i> Spp.)
Catmint (<i>nepeta</i> spp.)	Lilac (wild lilac - <i>Ceanothus</i> spp)
Common Boneset (<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>)*	Milkweed (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.) * swamp, common, butterflyweed
Columbine (<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> *)	Mountain Mint (<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>)*
Cosmos (<i>cosmos bipinnatus</i>)	Mints (spearmint, peppermint, apple, licorice, etc)
Cranesbill geranium (<i>geranium incanum</i>)*	Oregano, thyme,
Delphinium	Penstemon (beardtongue) *
False Blue Indigo (<i>Baptista australis</i>)*	Red Clover (<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>) (good cover crop)
Fennel, Dill	Sage (<i>Salvia</i>)
Gayfeather (<i>Liatrus spicata, scariosa</i>)*	Sedums
Goldenrod (<i>Solidago</i> spp.)*	Snapdragons, Sunflowers, Tithonia
Hyssop (<i>Agastache</i> spp.)	Yarrow (<i>Achillea</i> spp) , Zinnia

* = native

- Plant a variety of flowers (annuals and perennials) to attract a variety of pollinators
- Native bees are active from early spring to late fall so try to provide three seasons of pollen and nectar. They are early risers and most of them do not sting.
- Bees generally like blue, purple, white, and yellow flowers with flat landing surfaces: hummingbirds like red and purple tubular flowers.
- Studies show that native wildflowers are 4 times as attractive as non-natives.
- Provide nesting areas (brush piles, bare ground) for these non-hive producing bees.
- Provide water in the form of a birdbath and a muddy spot so bees and butterflies can extract minerals from the soil.
- Attracting these beneficial insects to your vegetable garden will improve the quality and quantity of your produce
- Do not use pesticides - it is very toxic to bees

HOME GARDENERS CAN NUTURE HUGE NUMBERS OF NATIVE POLLINATORS IN THEIR BACK YARDS AND VEGETABLE GARDENS BY FOLLOWING THE STEPS ABOVE.



Honeybee-Friendly Plants for Your Yard and Garden

To make your bee garden, consider adding or encouraging some of these flowering plants with long blooming periods:

Category and Plant Name	Blooming Period	Good for Nectar or Pollen	Type/Zone
Ornamentals			
Russian Sage ³ (<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>)	July-October	Nectar	3-8
Cone Flower, Purple (<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>)	July-September		4-8
Vitex (<i>Vitex negundo heterophylla</i>)	July-September		8-10
Golden Rain Tree (<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>)			5-9
Blue Mist Shrub (<i>Caryopteris clandonensis</i>)	Late July-Oct.		3-7
Winter Aconite ⁴ (<i>Eranthis hyemalis</i>)	Feb-March		4-7
Crocus (<i>Crocus spp.</i>)	Late Feb-March	Pollen	3-8

Agricultural Plants

Lavender, English ³ (<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>)	June-November	Nectar	5-8
Anise Hyssop (<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>)	June-October	Nectar	5-9
Greek Oregano (<i>Origanum heracleoticum</i>)	Late June-Oct.	Nectar	Annual
Buckwheat (<i>Fagopyrum sagittatum</i>)	Mid June-Oct.	Both	Annual
Sunflower (<i>Helianthus spp.</i>)	July-Mid October	Both	Annual
Alfalfa (<i>Medicago sativa</i>)	June-Mid Sept.	Both	Perennial
Basil (<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>)	July-Mid October		Annual

Wild Plants

Common Dandelion ³ (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>)	March-November	Both	Perennial
White Dutch Clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>)	April-October	Both	Perennial
Common Motherwort (<i>Leonurus cardiaca</i>)	May-October		Perennial
Vipers Bugloss (<i>Echium vulgare</i>)	June-October	Nectar	Biennial 1-11
Mountain Mint (<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i>)	July-October	Nectar	Perennial 2-9
Field Mustard (<i>Brassica rapa</i>)	Late March-June	Both	2-7
Red Dead Nettle (<i>Lamium purpureum</i>)	March-May		Annual
Jewelweed (<i>Impatiens capensis</i>)	Late July-Sept.		Annual
Skunk Cabbages ⁵ (<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>)	Feb.-Mid March		Perennial

Trees

Tulip Poplar & Black Locust:

The Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and Black Locust (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*) trees are principal nectar sources for bees in Maryland. These trees flower and provide nectar abundantly for the Spring nectar flow (times may vary; usually April through late May or early June in southern Maryland (Montgomery County), and late May through late June in northern or cooler parts of Maryland).

If you have space, plant one of these trees and offer the bees a large number of flowers with highly preferred nectar. These large deciduous trees can also provide shade for the home or garage when located to the southwest.