



Presented by: Maria Weber from McKay Nursery Company

TREES & PLANTS FOR THE PERFECT POLLINATOR GARDEN

Plant List

* = Of special importance

^N = Native

Trees

Spring

- Maple
 - Red^{*N}: red maple is one of the first trees to produce flowers and its pollen is an important food for emerging insects; flowers will not be covered by a late spring snow.
 - Silver^N
 - Sugar^N
- Oak^{*N}: 534 butterfly/moth species supported; wind pollinated.
- Willow^N: 455 butterfly/moth species supported.

Summer

- Linden^{*N}: the favorite tree of the great American author, poet, philosopher and naturalist, Henry David Thoreau; such a prolific nectar source that it's sometimes called the "bee-tree".

Small Trees/Shrubs

Spring

- Amelanchier/Serviceberry^{*N}: shallow flowers for short-tongued bees such as sweat or mining bees.
- Blueberry^{*N}: nectar provides food for bees and the mid-April emerging spring azure butterfly in addition to other pollinators; 288 butterfly/moth species supported.
- Catalpa: both flowers and extrafloral nectaries (nectar-producing glands physically apart from the flower) provide nectar.
- Crabapple: 311 butterfly/moth species supported.
- Currants/gooseberry^{*N}: fun to watch come alive with buzzing in the early evening; of special interest to hummingbirds.
- Eastern redbuds: favored by Mason bees (*Osmia spp.*).
- Hackberry^N: Tawny Emperor and Hackberry Emperor butterflies are found in association with the hackberry.
- Hawthorn^N: a good source of nectar in some seasons but not in others; good years are associated with fine, still, and humid weather.
- Hazels: early catkins are a valuable source of pollen.
- Kentucky coffeetree: there are very few insects and diseases that affect this tree and it is not visited by Japanese beetle.



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- Magnolia: beetles of the *Nitidulidae* family are the primary pollinators of magnolia flowers, in part because magnolias evolved long before bees and other flying pollinators.
- Mock-orange/Philadelphus: strong nighttime fragrance attracts nocturnal moths and butterflies.
- Plums/cherries^N: good nectar producers; wild plum (*P. Americana*)^N, pin cherry (*P. pensylvanica*)^N, and chokecherry (*P. virginiana*)^N are native.
- Pussy willow^{*N}: blooms before spring ephemerals; larval host for wide range of butterflies and moths.
- Rhododendron/Azalea: produces nectar toxins that discourage non-efficient pollinators; ceases production of toxin when too few preferred species are present to ensure pollinator success.
- Weigela: Rumba, Carnaval, Minuet, and Wine and Roses varieties especially attract hummingbirds.

Spring-Summer

- Lilac: brilliant purple and blue petals attract numerous bee species; long-tongued bees such as the bumble bee can access the nectar.
- Ninebark^N: valuable nectar source for many pollinators, including native bees.
- Sumac^{*N}: soft-centered stems where bees can make their nests.

Summer

- Dwarf bush honeysuckle^N: Diervilla 'Butterflies' has an extended bloom period.
- Hydrangea^{*}: Arborescens^{*} and PeeGee (Silver Dollar Hydrangea)^{*} types produce pollen and nectar.
- Potentilla: flowers primarily attract small bees and flies, including Mason bees and Small Carpenter bees.
- Roses^{*}: open flowers attract pollinators; prune for re-blooming into fall.
 - Nearly wild^{*N}
 - Open-flower varieties: R. rugosa, Sunny Knock Out, Blanc Double de Coubert, etc...

Fall

- Witch hazel^{*N}: the bees last forage; flowers will not be covered by an early winter snow.

Perennials

Spring: plant under a tree/shrub for blooms occurring before leaf-out

- Bluestar^N: important larval butterfly food source.
- Nodding onion^N: mainly attracts bees; nodding habit may protect the nectar from rain.
- Pachysandra^{*N}: early blooming shade plant.
- Phlox: bright blossoms are especially attractive to butterflies; pale-colored or white blossoms attract nighttime pollinators such as moths.



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Summer

- Beebalm^{*N}: attracts a number of specialist bees (especially the small black sweat bee), bumble bees, predatory wasps, hummingbirds, and hawk moths; attracts sand wasps, voracious predators of the brown marmorated stinkbug.
- Blazingstar^{*N}: pollinator magnets; *Liatris* species are host plants for the flower moths *Schinia gloriosa* and *Schinia sanguinea*.
- Catmint: the first heavy flush of blooms can be cut back to promote re-blooming in the late summer.
- Coneflower^{*N}: a top nectar source.
- Lobelia/Cardinal Flower: Cardinal Flower is a prolific nectar source for hummingbirds; it was one of the National Audubon Society's 2016 Bird-Friendly Native Plants of the Year.
- Milkweed/Butterfly Weed^{*N}: sole host plant for the Monarch caterpillar; nectar source for many pollinators. Monarchs will often only lay one egg per plant, so plant several.
- Rudbeckia^{*N}: *R. laciniata*^{*N} especially popular with pollinators; UV nectar guides and tall height attract bees while goldfinches enjoy the seeds.
- Yarrow^N: attracts native bees and flower beetles.

Fall

- Aromatic/New England Aster^{*}: butterfly magnet/caterpillar food source and important food resource for pre-hibernation bumble bee queens.
- Goldenrod^{*N}: bees love it; 115 butterfly/moth species supported.
- Sedum^{*N}: very late bloomer providing an important food resource for pre-hibernation bumble bee queens.

Other

- Dill: food source of black swallowtail caterpillars
- Fennel: food source of black swallowtail caterpillars
- Little Bluestem^{*N}: serves as a larval host for 9 skipper species and female bumble bee queens nest at the base of bunch grasses where they will be protected until they emerge in the spring; also: bigstem, fescues, needlegrass, and purple top.
- Parsley: important food source of black swallowtail caterpillars