

Plants that Attract Pollinators Patrick Nudd



Wild bee on Blue Vervain

Pollinators are essential for every garden. Whether you have a flower bed, vegetable garden, or a combination of both you need pollinators. Without pollinators 40% of the vegetables/fruit in your garden will not produce, things like squash, beans, peppers, strawberry etc. A variety of plants can be extremely helpful in attracting pollinators. Diversity is key in establishing habitat and food for pollinators. Below is a list of plants that we have found to be essential for attracting bees and butterflies, many of these also provide a number of other benefits to the garden and the gardener.

Deciding which plants to add to your garden can be overwhelming, Keep it simple, start with a few new plants and

plan on adding more in the coming years. The flowering period is important, the longer plants bloom the more bees they will attract. Cutting the spent flowers will encourage new blossoms.

Perennials will come back each year, they spread or multiply by roots and sometimes by seed. Annuals die back at the end of the growing season, leaving behind an abundance of seeds so they can thrive next year. If you don't want annual plants to spread all over your garden remove the spent flowers, if they are really dry be gentle as the seeds can easily scatter. If you want more plants next year crush the dried seed heads and scatter the debris in areas that you want those plants to grow, do this in the fall.

Bee Balm, borage and motherwort are on the top of my list, they will be a buzz with bees of all kinds for most of the summer. All will spread by seed, borage is an annual, motherwort and bee balm are perennials. Cone flowers like Echinacea and Black Eyed Susan's are very attractive to bees and butterflies, they make nice group plantings as well. The more variety of plants you have the more diverse your pollinators will be, this benefits the garden and gardener. The list of plants below is not complete, just an example of some options that are available.

Honey bee on dill



Perennial Plants

Angelica (*Angelica atropurpurea*)
Anise Hyssop (*Anastache foeniculum*)
Asters (*Aster alpinus* and *A. tartaricus*)
Basket of Gold (*Aurinia saxatilis*)
Bee Balm (*monarda fistolosa*)
Blanketflowers (*Gaillardia*)
Blue Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia syphilitica*)
Blue Wild Rye (*Elymus glaucus*)
Bog Rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*)
Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)
California Lilac (*Ceanothus Spp.*)
California Brome (*Bromus carinatus*)
California Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)
Canada Anemone (*Anemone canadensis*)
Carpet Bugleweeds (*Ajuga*)
Catmints (*Nepeta*)
Cinquefoils (*Potentilla*)
Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*)
Comfrey (*Symphytum*)
Coneflowers (*Echinacea*)
Coral Vine (*Antigonon leptopus*)
Coreopsis (*Coreopsis*)
Cowparsnip (*Heracleum maximum*)
Coyote Brush (*Baccharis pilularis*)
Creeping Boobiolla (*Myoporum pavifolium*)
Crimson Thyme (*Thymus serpyllum coccineus*)
Crocus (*Crocus*)
Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)
Cup Plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*)
Deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*)
Elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*)

Evening Primrose (*Oenothera biennis*)
Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)
Fernleaf Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare* var. *crispum*)
Feverfew (*Chrysanthemum parthenium*)
Garlic Chives (*Allium tuberosum*)
Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)
Golden Marguerite (*Anthemis tinctoria*)
Goldenrod (*Solidago*)
Green Lace Flower, aka Toothpick Ammi (*Ammi visnaga*)
Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*)
Indian Hemp (*Apocynum cannabinum*)
Jerusalem Artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*)
Korean Mint (*Anastache rugosa*)
Late Figwort (*Scrophularia marilandica*)
Lavender Globe Lily (*Allium tanguticum*)
Lavenders (*Lavandula*)
Lovage (*Levisticum officinale*)
Lupines (*Lupinus*)
Meadow Barley (*Hordeum brachyantherum*)
Meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*)
Milkweeds (*Asclepias*)
Mints (*Mentha*)
Missouri Ironweed (*Vernonia missurica*)
Mother Wort (*Leonurus cardiaca*)
Mountain Mints (*Pycnanthemum muticum* and *P. virginianum*)
Mountain Sandwort (*Arenaria montana*)
New England Aster (*Symphotrichumnovae-angliae*)
Pale Indian Plantain (*Cacalia atriplicifolium*)
Paleleaf Sunflower (*Helianthus strumosus*)
Patrinia (*Patrinia*)
Penstemon (*Penstemon hirsutus*)
Peonies (*Paeonia*)
Pincushion Flower (*Scabiosa caucasica*)
Poppy Mallow (*Callirhoe involucrata*)

Purple-Needle Grass (*Nassella pulchra*)
Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*)
Riddell's Goldenrod (*Oligoneuron riddellii*)
Rocky Mountain Penstemon (*Penstemon strictus*)
Sand Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)
Sea Lavender (*Limonium latifolium*)
Sea Pink (*Armeria alliacea*)
Shrubby Cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*)
Smooth Aster (*Symphyotrichum laeve*)
Soapbark Tree (*Quillaja saponaria*)
St. Catherine's Lace (*Eriogonum giganteum*)
Stonecrops (*Sedum kamtschaticum*, *S. spurim*, *S. album*)
Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
Teasel (*Dipsacus*)
Thrift (*Armeria maritima*)
Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)
White Lace Flower, aka Bishop's Weed (*Ammi majus*)
Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)
Willow (*Salix Spp.*)
Wood Betony (*Stachys officinalis*)
Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
Yellow Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*)
Yellow Giant Hyssop (*Agastache nepetoides*)
Yolo Slender Wheatgrass (*Elymus trachycaulus majus*)

Annual Plants

Baby's Breath (*Gypsophila elegans*)
Bachelor's Buttons (*Centaurea cyanus*)
Basils (*Ocimum basilicum*)

Borage (*Borago officinalis*)
Cilantro (*Coriandrum sativum*)
Cucumbers (*Cucumis sativus*)
Calendula (*Calendula officinalis*)
California Poppy (*Eschscholtzia californica*)
Candytuft (*Iberis umbellata*)
Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa*)
Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*)
Cosmos (*Cosmos bipinnatus*)
Crimson Clover (*Trifolium incarnatum*)
Dill (*Anethum graveolens*)
Johnny Jump-Up (*Viola cornuta*)
Lobelia (*Lobelia erinus*)
Signet Marigolds (*Tagetes tenuifolia*)
Sunflowers (*Helianthus annuus*)
Sweet Alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*)
Sweet Marjoram (*Origanum majorana*)
Summer Savory (*Satureja hortensis*) Squash (Cucurbita)
Cucurbita

Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

Resources;

Upper mid west

http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/11/xerces_bee_plants_upper_midwest.pdf

<http://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/plants-to-attract-beneficial-insects-zl0z1005zvau.aspx#axzz2pRbbULGr>