Plants for Pollinators

Pollinators forage for both pollen and nectar throughout the year. Native plants provide great resources for pollinators and low-maintenance options for property owners. However, nectar flow from these indigenous sources tends to falter in the drought of late summer, leading to nectar dears. Honey bee colonies preparing for winter can struggle during this period. Invasive plants like Himalayan and Evergreen blackberry do provide nectar, but their intentional use is highly discouraged. You can help by planting:

- local native plants (designated with N);
- flowers with varying colors, shapes, and sizes to appeal to diverse pollinator species;
- in groups, ideally four feet across;
- successions of species selected to provide blooms throughout the seasons.

In choosing trees, shrubs, and garden plants marketed as “bee friendly,” keep in mind that some growers may treat their stock with chemicals that are potentially harmful to pollinators. OSU’s excellent booklet, “How to Reduce Bee Poisoning from Pesticides,” accessible free online as a PDF, can aid in understanding this issue better. Asking about insecticides when you buy can help you make an informed decision and send a message to retailers that pollinator safety is important to their customers.

Remember to provide nesting habitat near your pollinator plantings. Areas of dry, uncultivated soil will accommodate solitary ground-nesting bees, while the dried stems, canes, and wood debris will host tube-nesting pollinators.

Here are a few planting suggestions to get you started:

Spring

Trees and Shrubs
Apple, Many varieties (Malus spp.) Tree
Blackberry, Pacific (Rubus ursinus) Trailing Shrub N
Blueberry Vaccinium (Cyanococcus) Shrub
Cascara, Buckthorn (Rhamnus purshiana) Tree N
Hawthorne Crataegus spp. Small Tree
Horse Chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum) Tree
Huckleberry Vaccinium spp. Shrub N
Madrone, Pacific (Arbutus menziesii) Tree N
Maple, Big Leaf and Vine (Acer spp.) Tree N
Ninebark, Pacific (Physocarpus capitatus) Shrub N
Pear, Many varieties (Pyrus) Tree
Plum, Many varieties (Prunus domestica L.) Tree
Privet Ligustrum spp. Tall Shrub
Quince Cydonia oblonga Tree
Quince, Flowering (Chaenomeles spp.) Shrub
Raspberry Rubus occidentalis Shrub
Snowberry Symphoricarpos albus Shrub N
Willow Salix spp. Shrub, Tree N

Perennials, Annuals and Bulbs
Balsam Root Balsamorhiza deltoidea Nutt.) Perennial
Clover, Crimson Trifolium incarnatum L. Annual
Crocus Crocus spp. Bulb
Hellebore Helleborus x hybridus) Perennial
Pennyroyal Mentha pulegium L.) Perennial
Phacelia Phacelia spp.) Annual and perennial
Poppy, California Eschscholzia californica) Peren.
Skunk Cabbage Lysichitum americanum) Peren.
Strawberry Fragaria spp. Perennial N
Vetch, Hairy Vicia sativa L.) Perennial
Wyethia Wyethia angustifolia) Perennial N
**Summer**

**Trees and Shrubs**
- Basswood *(Tiliaceae spp.)* Tree
- Buckwheat tree *(Cliftonia monophylla)* Shrub
- Catalpa *(Catalpa spp.)* Tree
- Clematis *(Clematis linguistica N.)* Woody vine
- Cotoneaster *(Cotoneaster spp.)* Shrub
- Golden Rain Tree *(Koosreweria paniculata)* Tree
- Grape *(Vitis spp.)* Woody vine
- Salal *(Gaultheria shallon)* Shrub *N*
- Virginia Creeper *(Parthenocissus)* Climbing Vine

**Perennials, Annuals, Bulbs, etc.**
- Bachelor’s Button *(Centarea Cyanus)* Annual
- Borage *(Borago officinalis L.)* Annual
- Buckwheat *(Fagopyrum esculentum)* Annual
- Catnip *(Nepeta cataria L.)* Perennial
- Chicory *(Chichorium intybus)* Perennial
- Clovers *(Trifolium spp.)* Annual, Perennial
- Cow Parsnip *(Heracleum lanatum)* Biennial *N*
- Dandelion *(Taraxacum officinale)* Biennial
- Dodder *(Cuscuta spp.)* Perennial
- Dogbane *(Apocynum spp.)* Perennial
- Fireweed *(Chamerion angustifolium)* Perennial *N*
- Flax, European *(Linum usitatissimum)* Annual
- Fox Glove *(Digitalis purpurea L.)* Biennial
- Pearly Everlasting *(Anaphalis margaritacea L.)* Perennial *N*

**Fall**

**Trees and Shrubs**
- Chaparral Broom *(Baccharis pilularis)* Shrub *N*
- Black Cottonwood *(Populus trichocarpa)* Tree

**Perennials, Annuals, etc.**
- Aster *(Aster spp.)* Perennial
- Beggar-Ticks *(Bidens frondosa)* Perennial Herb *N*
- Goldenrod *(Solidago spp.)* Perennial
- Gumweed *(Grindelia integrifolia)* Perennial *N*
- Pearly Everlasting *(Anaphalis marg.*)* Perennial *N*
- Salvia *(Salvia spp.)* Annual, Perennial

**Winter**

**Heather *(Erica vulgaris)* Low Shrub
- Witch Hazel *(Hamamelis spp.)* Large Shrub
- Hazel Nut *(Corylus spp.)* Small Tree *N*
- Laurel, California *(Umbellularia californica)* Tree

**Resources**

- **Oregon State Beekeepers Association** www.orsba.org. See "Regional Associations" for a group near you.
- **Oregon Master Beekeeper Program** www.oregonmasterbeekeeper.org
- **OSU Honey Bee Lab** honeybeelab.oregonstate.edu Find the booklet, "How to Reduce Bee Poisoning from Pesticides" under "Info for Beekeepers".
- **Xerces Society** www.xerces.org
- **The Melissa Garden** www.themelissagarden.com
- **Pollinator Partnership** www.pollinator.org
- **Native Pollinator** www.nativepollinator.com

This information brought to you courtesy of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association, Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, and Umpqua Bank.