

Plants for Pollinators

Southern Oregon

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 dearths. Honey bee colonies preparing for winter can struggle during this period. Invasive plants like blackberries, thistles or knapweeds 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

Antelope Brush (*Purshia tridentata*) Shrub **N**
Apple, Many varieties (*Malus spp.*) Tree
Ceanothus -- Lower elev. (*Ceanothus spp.*) Shrub **N**
Cottonwood, Black (*Populus trichocarpa*) Tree **N**
Currants, Wild (*Ribes spp.*) Shrub **N**
Hawthorne (*Crataegus spp.*) Small Tree
Locust, Black (*Robinia pseudoacacia L.*) Tree
Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*) **N**
Maple (*Acer spp.*) Tree
Oregon Grape (*Mahonia spp.*) Shrub **N**
Pear, Many varieties (*Pyrus*) Tree
Plum (*Prunus spp.*) Tree
Serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*) Shrub
Willow (*Salix spp.*) Shrub, Tree **N**

Perennials, Annuals and Bulbs

Balsam Root (*Balsamorhiza deltoidea*) Perennial
Bugle Weed (*Ajuga reptans*) Groundcover
Squill, Glory of the Snow (*Chionodoxa spp.*) Bulb
Clover, Crimson (*Trifolium incarnatum L.*) Annual
Crocus (*Crocus spp.*) Bulb
Foxtail Lily (*Eremerus spp.*) Perennial
Lupine (*Lupinus spp.*) Annual, perennial **N**
Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus L.*) Biennial
Mustard, common (*Brassica campestris*) Biennial
Pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium L.*) Perennial
Phacelia (*Phacelia spp.*) Annual and perennial
Poppy, California (*Eschscholzia californica*) Peren.
Squill (*Chionodoxa, Puschkinia & Scilla spp.*) Bulb
Sweet Clover, White (*Melilotus alba*) Annual/Bien.
Wyethia (*Wyethia amplexicaulis*) Perennial **N**

Summer

Trees and Shrubs

Basswood (*Tilia cordata*) Tree
Clematis (*Clematis lingusticifolia* Nutt.) Woody vine
Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster spp.*) Shrub
Hyssop (*Hyssopus officinalis*) Shrub
Rose, Hardy Shrub (*Rosa spp.*) Shrub
Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) Shrub
Silver Lace Vine (*Polygonum auberti*) Vine
Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) Shrub **N**
Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus*) Climbing Vine

Perennials, Annuals, Bulbs, etc.

Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) Perennial
Bachelor's Button (*Centaurea 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
Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) Biennial
Dogbane (*Apocynum spp.*) Perennial
Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*) Perennial **N**
Flax, European (*Linum usitatissimum*) Annual
Lavender (*Lavandula spp.*) Perennial
Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea* L.)
Perennial **N**
Penstemon (*Penstemon spp.*) Annual, perennial **N**
Squash (*Cucurbita pepo* L.) Annual Vine
Thyme (*Thymus spp.*) Herb

Fall

Trees and Shrubs

Chaparral Broom (*Baccharis pilularis*) Shrub
Rabbitbrush (*Chryosamnus spp.*) Shrub **N**

Perennials, Annuals, etc.

Aster (*Aster spp.*) Perennial
Beggar-Ticks (*Bidens frondosa*) Perennial Herb **N**
Chicory (*Chichorium intybus*) Perennial

Goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*) Perennial
Hyssop, Anise (*Agastache foeniculum*) Perennial
Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea* L.)
Perennial **N**
Penstemon (*Penstemon spp.*) Annual, perennial **N**
Salvia (*Salvia spp.*) Annual, Perennial

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.

