

Plants for Pollinators

Willamette Valley

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 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
Crab Apple, Western (*Malus fusca*) Tree **N**
Cascara, Buckthorn (*Rhamnus purshiana*) Tree **N**
Cherry, Bitter (*Prunus emarginata*) 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.*) Peren.
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. **N**
Squill (*Chionodoxa, Puschkinia & Scilla spp.*) Bulb
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
Ceanothus (*Ceanothus spp.*) Shrub *N*
Clematis (*Clematis lingusticifolia Nutt.*) Woody vine
Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster spp.*) Shrub
Golden Rain Tree (*Koesreuteria paniculata*) Tree
Grape (*Vitis spp.*) Woody vine
Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) Shrub *N*
Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus*) Climbing Vine

Perennials, Annuals, Bulbs, etc.

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
Lupine (*Lupinus spp.*) Perennial *N*
Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*) Perennial *N*
Fox Glove (*Digitalis purpurea L.*) Biennial
Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis marg.*) Perennial
Penstemon (*Penstemon spp.*) Annual/Peren.
Russian Sage (*Perovskia spp.*) Perennial
Sunflower (*Helianthus annus*) Annual

Fall

Trees and Shrubs

Chaparral Broom (*Baccharis pilularis*) Shrub *N*

Perennials, Annuals, etc.

Aster (*Aster spp.*) Perennial
Beggar-Ticks (*Bidens frondosa*) Perennial *N*

Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia pulchella*) Annual
Goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*) Perennial
Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis marg.*) Perennial *N*
Salvia (*Salvia spp.*) Annual, Perennial
Stonecrop (*Sedum spp.*) 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
Snow Drops (*Galanthus spp.*) Bulb

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.

