

A Selection of Bee Forage Plants



This list is put together out of our experience working with bees in the USA in the Midwest and East Coast, as well as Europe. It is by no means complete but we wanted to offer an easy list for everybody that wants to support the Honeybee by planting forage. You can find many lists on the internet (local beekeeping clubs or cooperative extensions), but they are usually very long and it does not make it easy to know which are the best ones to start with. A great help in fine-tuning the offering in your locality is to look around in the summer: where do you see the pollinators (we've never found any on the forsythia, azalea or rhododendron). Our experience shows that all pollinators, honeybees & native wild bees, as well as beetles and wasps profit from planting these flowers, trees and shrubs.



Biannual or Perennials

- All spring bulbs
- Anise Hyssop
- Asters
- Berries
- Calaminta
- Catnip
- Caryopteris
- Chives
- Comfrey
- Coreopsis
- Dandelion
- Echinacea
- Gaillardia
- Globe Thistle
- Goldenrod
- Hazelnut
- Hyssop
- Lavender
- Melissa
- Mint
- Monarda
- Motherwort
- Mountain Mint
- Obedient Plant
- Oregano
- Plantain
- Pussy Willow
- Rose Mallow
- Rosemary
- Rudbeckia
- Russian Sage
- Sage
- Sedum
- Sunflower (perennial)
- Sweet Clover
- Thyme
- Wild Rose
- White Clover
- Verbena (perennial)

Annuals

- Arugula
- Basil
- Borage
- Buckwheat
- Canola (Rape seed)
- Cleome
- Cornflower (Bachelor Buttons)
- Flax
- Cosmos
- Crimson Clover
- Phacelia
- Holy Basil
- Mustard
- Sunflower
- Poppies
- Scabiosa
- Verbena
- Zinnia

Trees

- Tulip Poplar
- Linden
- Black locust (Robinie)
- Sourwood
- Fruit Trees

Space Considerations

Small space or pots:

Alyssum, Arugula, Basil, Borage Holy Basil, Zinnia, Corn Flower, Poppies, Scabiosa, Verbena, Coreopsis, Lavender, Melissa, Spring bulbs, Summer Asters, Oregano, Gaillardia, Sage, Chives, Hyssop, Sedum, Thyme.

Backyard gardens, add to the previous list:

Cleome, Cosmos, Flax, Buckwheat, Phacelia, Sunflowers, Berries, Catnip, Fruit Trees, Goldenrod, Monarda, Rose Mallow, Russian Sage, Anise Hyssop, Calamint, Comfrey, Dandelion, Hazelnut, Motherwort, Rosemary, Wild Rose, Fall Asters, Caryopteris, Echinacea, Globe Thistle, Mint, Obedient Plant, Pussy Willow, Rudbeckia, Russian, white clover, (trees, depending on size of your yard)

Farms, add to the lists:

Fields of crimson clover, mustard, plantain, sweet clover, buckwheat, sunflowers, etc.

We recommend these books for further study:

John Lovell, Honeyplants of North America
Frank Pellets, American Honeyplants

