

# Plants That Attract Bees

Source: David Salman, Chief Horticulturist, High Country Gardens

October 2018

- Plant a diversity of flowering plants that bloom from early spring into the fall.
- Summer/early Fall blooming plants help to keep bees around your vegetable garden when squash, melons, cucumbers and tomatoes are flowering
- An abundance of early and mid-spring blooming plants help to build honeybee numbers for later in the growing season

Flower form affects usefulness for bees

- Single flowered rose - the anthers and pistils are visible indicating that there is nectar and pollen available to collect
- Bees are unable to harvest nectar and pollen from double flowered roses

Native shrubs for early spring color

- *Fendlera rupicola*, Cliff fendlerbush
- *Amelanchier utahensis*, Utah service berry
- *Mahonia repens*, Creeping Oregon grape
- *Prunus besseyi* Pawnee Buttes®, Creeping sand cherry
- *Ribes odoratum* 'Crandall', Crandall's clove scented currant
- *Rhus aromatica* 'Gro Low', Gro Low sumac
- *Jasminum nudiflorum*, Winter jasmine

Native shrubs for mid-to late spring color

- *Philadelphus lewisii* 'Cheyenne', Cheyenne mock orange (perfumed flowers)
- *Mahonia haematocarpa*, Red berry mahonia)
- *Berberis fendleri*, Fendler's barberry

Native Shrubs for summer flowers

- *Chamaebatiaria millifolium*, Fernbush
- *Caryopteris*, Blue mist spirea (late summer)

Old World shrubs for summer flowers

- *Perovskia atriplicifolia*, Russian sage (summer long flowers that honeybees love)
- *Vitex agnus-castus*, Chaste tree

Native Shrubs for fall flowers

- *Chrysothamnus nauseosus*, Rabbit brush

Early spring flowering perennials

- *Forsythia*
- *Pyrus*, Flowering pear trees

Cold hardy iceplants (*Delosperma* cultivars)

- *Delosperma* sp. 'Lesotho Pink'
- *Delosperma* 'Blut'

Early to mid-spring flowering cacti

- *Opuntia basilaris*, Beaver tail cacti

Late spring flowering perennials

- *Lavandula angustifolia* 'Thumbelina Leigh', 'Vera', English lavenders
- *Agastache neomexicana*, New Mexico hummingbird mint
- *Eriogonum umbellatum* v. *aureum* 'Kanah Creek', Sulfur buckwheat
- *Penstemon pseudospectabilis*, 'Coconino County', Desert beardtongue

Summer flowering perennials

- *Berlandiera lyrata* 'Mora County Mix', Chocolate flower (chocolate scented flowers)
- *Monarda fistulosa* 'Wichita Mountains', Beebalm
- *Agastache* 'Blue Fortune', Hybrid hyssop
- *Echinacea purpurea*, Purple coneflower
- *Solidago*, Golden rod
- *Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldstrum', Black-eyed Susan
- *Physostegia virginiana* 'Miss Manners', Obedient plant
- *Ratibida columnaris*, Prairie coneflower
- *Eryngium*, Sea holly
- *Allium* 'Millennium', 'Christophii', Ornamental onions (fall planted bulbs)

Late summer-fall flowering perennials

- *Solidago rugosa* 'Fireworks', Tall goldernrod
- *Aster frikartii* 'Monch'
- *Liatris punctate*, Prairie Gayfeather

Fall flowering perennials

- *Aster oblongifolius*, Raydon's Favorite; *Aster laevis*, 'Bluebird'
- *Helianthus maximiliana*, Maximilian's sunflower
- *Salvia azurea*, Prairie sage