

## 'Bee' Part of the Solution

Bee populations have been in decline for several years. While no one is sure exactly WHY this is happening. We as gardeners can become a frontline group to help plant bee-friendly landscapes.

### Informational Resources:

#### *Colorado State*

*Beekeepers Association*  
[www.coloradobeekeepers.org](http://www.coloradobeekeepers.org)

*Pollinator Partnership &  
North American Pollinator  
Protection Campaign:*  
[www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org)

*The Xerces Society*  
[Xerces.org](http://Xerces.org)

*Penn State*  
*Pollinator Resource:*  
[http://ento.psu.edu/  
publications/pollinatorfood](http://ento.psu.edu/publications/pollinatorfood)

*Colorado State*  
*University Extension:*  
[www.ext.colostate.edu](http://www.ext.colostate.edu)



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[www.phelangardens.com](http://www.phelangardens.com)

- \*local gardening information
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## Bee Friendly Gardens

Practices and plants to attract  
honeybees to your garden



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# Getting Started

Bees are important pollinators for many of our food crops. In fact, about 1/3 of our food is pollinated by honey bees including many nuts, fruits and citrus. Yet, bee numbers are in serious decline. Although researchers point to possible causes such as pesticide use, loss of habitat, and disease... no one has been able to pinpoint the exact cause and offer a remedy.

There is now a movement in the gardening world to become a frontline for bee recovery by providing nectar and pollen-producing plants in our home gardens. Perhaps if enough grass-roots green thumbs take an active role in these 'bee recovery zones' we can swing the pendulum the other way for these important insects and undo some of the damage that has been done.

What does it mean to plant a 'bee friendly' garden? This means your garden should have a diverse group of nectar and pollen-rich plants in a pesticide free environment. Ingredients for a bee friendly garden include:

1) **Plant patches** of the same flowering plant (4' or more) to make it easier for bees to locate and harvest from flowers. Colors that particularly attract bees are: blue, purple, violet, white, and yellow.

2) **Types of flowers:** bees are attracted to 'old school' flowers, herbs and natives. Avoid hybrids that have had the nectar/pollen producing qualities bred out of them. Ex. Plant old fashioned sunflowers instead of the 'pollenless' types.

3) **Bloom time:** Plant a variety of flowers with staggered bloom times to feed bees in Spring (bulbs, fruit trees, crabapples), Summer (coneflower), and Fall (mums and asters).

4) **Avoid toxic pesticides** in your garden. No sense attracting these little guys only to poison them. If you must spray a pesticide, try to pick something that is bee-friendly or time your application when bees are not active (early morning or evening hours)

We should note that, according to the Colorado State University Extension, honey bees rarely sting. Wasps are usually the culprits here. Yellowjacket wasps are often hard to distinguish from honey bees. But, you can tell the difference because honey bees will have hairy bodies, while wasps will be smooth. Wasps will also build paper nests, honey bee nests are waxy.

## Bee Friendly Plants

*compiled from Colorado State University Extension, Colorado State Beekeepers Association, Pollinator Partnership, and The Xerces Society.*

**Dandelions** (they are not weeds to bees;-)

**Herbs** (let them flower)

Most herbs.....Basil, Lavender, Marjoram, Mint, Oregano, Rosemary, Thyme

**Trees:**

Crabapple varieties (early nectar source)

Fruit Trees: All types (early nectar source)

Aspen, Hawthorn, Linden, Maple

**Annuals**

Alyssum, Bachelor Button, Calendula, Cleome, Cosmos (single types), Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost', Heliotrope, Morning Glory, Nasturtium, Snapdragon, Sunflowers (with pollen!), Verbena, Zinnia

**Shrubs**

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
Amelanchier	Serviceberry
Caryopteris	Blue Mist Spirea

Chrysothamnus	Rabbitbrush
Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster
Forsythia	Forsythia
Mahonia	Grape Holly
Philadelphus	Mock Orange
Prunus	Sand Cherry
Rhus	Sumac
Syringa	Lilac

**Perennials**

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
Achillea	Yarrow
Agastache	Anise Hyssop
Alyssum	Basket of Gold
Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly Weed
Aster	Aster
Campanula	Bellflowers
Centaurea	Bachelor's Button
Chrysanthemum	Mums
Coreopsis	Tickseed
Echinacea	Coneflower
Eupatorium	Joe Pye Weed
Gaillardia	Blanket Flower
Helianthus	False Sunflower
Liatris	Gayfeather
Lupinus	Lupine
Malva	Hollyhock Mallow
Monarda	Bee Balm
Nepeta	Catmint
Papaver	Poppy
Penstemon	Beardtongue
Perovskia	Russian Sage
Phlox	Creeping Phlox
Ratibida	Prairie Coneflowers
Rudbeckia	Black-Eyed Susan
Salvia	Salvia varieties
Scabiosa	Pincushion Flower
Sedum	Creeping & Upright
Stachys	Lamb's Ears
Solidago	Goldenrod
Tithonia	Mexican Sunflower
Tradescantia	Spiderwort
Veronica	Speedwell