












BEE-FRIENDLY PLANTS FOR YOUR GARDEN AND FARM

Feb - Mar	Plant description	Garden Ecosystem	Photo
	<p>Christmas Rose <i>Helleborus orientalis</i></p> <p>This is a great perennial for the winter garden, blooming from January until April. The evergreen winter foliage is dramatic in the summer garden as well. Performs well in shady sites, forest understory, with ample humus.</p>	Woodland	
	<p>Oregon Grape 'Charity' <i>Mahonia</i> <i>Mahonia x media</i> 'Charity' (pictured) <i>M. nervosa</i>; <i>M. aquifolium</i> (native)</p> <p>All mahonias are attractive to bees. 'Charity' is 6 – 8' high evergreen shrub blooms very early, from January through March at a time when few other plants are in flower. Spiky foliage provides architectural impact year round. Mahonias prefer some shade in summer.</p>	Woodland	
April - May			
	<p>Thrift <i>Armeria maritima</i></p> <p>Compact grassy clumps to 8" Bright pink flower clusters in spring. Does well in dry sandy soils.</p>	Native Seaside Dry meadows	
	<p>Cranesbill <i>Geranium macrorhizum</i></p> <p>Pale pink flowers for several weeks in early spring, grows up to 18" tall, spreading clumps. Very easy.</p> <p>Bees like most perennial geraniums but they really love this species!</p>	Woodland or Open Meadow	

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	Columbine <i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i> <i>A. formosa</i> (Native) A short-lived perennial, will self-seed readily. Low foliage, flowers about 18" – 30". The double ones especially are smothered in bees.	Woodland	
	Bugloss <i>Brunnera "Jack Frost"</i> An excellent early season perennial starting bloom in April and continuing for many weeks. Attractive silvery foliage and blue flowers, grows about 12 – 18" high. Great for edging paths, in front of shrubs. Needs shade and moisture in summer.	Woodland	
	Chives <i>Allium schoenoprasum</i> Common garden chives are easy to grow. Great for attracting pollinators to vegetable gardens. Edible flowers and foliage. Less than 1' tall.	Adaptable sun	
	Orange Spice" thyme <i>Thymus</i> spp A good landscaping thyme, excellent ground cover and between paving stones. The bees won't leave it alone.	Shallow soil Dry conditions	
	Stone crop <i>Sedum spathulifolium</i> Prostrate mat with silver fleshy leaves. Yellow flowers in May. Drought tolerant.	Native Rocky outcrops Seaside	

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	<p>Fringe cup <i>Tellima grandiflora</i></p> <p>Low growing rosettes of leaves with small flowers on 12' stems. Flowers are not showy but highly attractive to bees.</p>	<p>Native</p> <p>Woodland</p>	
June			
	<p>Lupin <i>Lupinus polyphylus</i></p> <p>At its best in early spring, palmately compound leaves with blue to violet flowers. Give adequate moisture to prevent mildew, will grow back if cut hard after bloom.</p>	<p>Native</p> <p>Open edges</p> <p>Disturbed sites</p> <p>Moist</p>	
	<p>Rose <i>Rosa</i> "Frau Dagmar Hartopf"</p> <p>Bees prefer the single roses in the Earthwise garden. Native roses, species and shrubs are relatively easy landscape plants that will attract pollinators. Don't be tempted to spray.</p>	<p>Sun</p> <p>Partial shade</p>	
	<p>Foxglove <i>Digitalis purpurea</i></p> <p>This biennial is a common site, naturalized throughout the Pacific Northwest. A good choice for shadier sites.</p>	<p>Woodland</p> <p>Edges</p> <p>Disturbed sites</p>	
	<p>Cranesbill <i>Geranium cantabrigiensis</i> Cambridge"</p> <p>Another perennial geranium the bees are crazy for. This one is compact and blooms for many months. Grows to about 8" high and spreads 2-3' Very effective next to paving.</p>	<p>Adaptable to many garden situations</p>	

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	<p>California lilac <i>Ceanothus "Victoria"</i></p> <p>A native of the west coast of North America, California lilac does well in mild coastal gardens. Forms an evergreen shrub 6-8' high, blue flowers highly attractive to bees.</p>	Dry open meadows	
	<p>Cornflower <i>Centaurea montana</i></p> <p>Another self-seeding perennial and old time garden favourite. The flower pictured is the selection Amethyst in Snow.</p>	Sunny Moist	
July			
	<p>Beardtongue <i>Penstemon mexicali</i></p> <p>Penstemons are North American natives and the bees seem to love seem to love all of them. This variety blooms in mid-summer and self seeds, but is not invasive.</p>	Sunny Open meadows	
	<p>Catmint <i>Nepeta "Dropmore Blue"</i></p> <p>An all-time bee favorite. You can hear the plants before you see them. Flowers over an extended flower season in summer. Will bloom again if cut back. Low greyish foliage, flower stalks 18" – 24". Spreads to make large clump.</p>	Sunny Dry sites	
	<p>Lavender <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i></p> <p>Lavenders are highly attractive to bees. There are many species and cultivars. The variety "Munsted" (shown) is readily available.</p>	Dry open meadows	

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	Tickseed <i>Coreopsis verticillata</i> 'Moonbeam' Easy to garden with, this is a cultivar of a North American prairie wildflower. Soft yellow flowers cover the 14" mounding plants for weeks in mid summer.	Open meadows	
Aug			
	Purple Coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> This native to North American prairies is humming with activity during late July and August. Performs well in the summer sun. Grows 2-3' tall.	Open meadows	
	Speedwell <i>Veronica spicata</i> Spires of blue flowers enliven the garden and drive the bees crazy. Grows 2 – 3' tall. Upright habit.	Open meadows	
	Goldenrod <i>Solidago canadensis</i> This BC native grows wild along Boundary Bay and is a bee and butterfly magnet at the Earthwise Garden. Prefers a sunny moist place. The native goldenrod grows to 4' tall and can need support without sufficient moisture.	Native Wet meadows Disturbed sites	
	Sea Holly <i>Eringium planum</i> Drought resistant and great in flower arrangements. Blue flowers like thistles on tall narrow plant. This is the most active bee plant in the garden in late July. Flower stems about 3' high.	Dry sandy soils	

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	<p>Michaelmas daisy <i>Aster douglassii</i></p> <p>This species is one of the asters native to the Pacific Northwest. An excellent bee plant for late summer gardens growing 3-4' tall and blooming for many weeks.</p>	<p>Native</p> <p>Wet meadows</p>	
	<p>Anise-Hyssop <i>Agastache feniculum</i></p> <p>This licorice scented plant is another North American prairie native, attracting both butterflies and bees. Blooms mid-summer. Flower spikes to about 4'.</p>	<p>Open meadows</p>	
	<p>Joe Pye Weed <i>Eupatorium purpurea</i></p> <p>Not really a weed but another North American native, at home in wet meadows. The species gets very tall but this cultivar, "Phantom," is only about 3-4'</p>	<p>Wet meadows</p>	
	<p>Fennel <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i></p> <p>Fennel is grown as an herb or for its delicious anise root. It also provides nectar for bees late in the season. Growing to about 4' tall its feathery foliage looks great at the back of the flower bed. Another self seeds, great where it's wanted.</p>	<p>Self-seeds easily</p> <p>Drought tolerant</p>	
	<p>Pincushion Flower <i>Scabiosa columbaria</i> "Moon Dance"</p> <p>Scabiosa is a favourite of butterflies as well as bees. This unusual variety grows about 18" tall and has creamy flowers blooming for many weeks in late summer.</p>	<p>Open sunny sites</p>	

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	<p>Serbian bellflower <i>Campanula poscharshyana</i></p> <p>There are many kinds of campanula blooming throughout the season. This one grows 6" high and spreads, tumbling over walls and ledges, blooming for weeks throughout the summer.</p>	<p>Open woodland</p> <p>Sun or shade okay</p>	
	<p>Stonecrop <i>Sedum "Bertram Anderson"</i> The border</p> <p>Sedums star in late summer plantings and are much sought after by bees. This variety growing to 2' tall has red black foliage and pink flowers. We have it planted with tan ornamental grasses at Earthwise.</p>	<p>Dry sites</p> <p>Full sun</p>	
	<p>Black Eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia fulgida "Goldsturm"</i></p> <p>One of the most popular late summer perennials blooming for many weeks in August and September, this variety makes a nice 2' clump, covered with bees.</p>	<p>Wet meadows</p> <p>Some shade okay</p>	
	<p>Bluebeard <i>Caryopteris x clandonensis</i></p> <p>Bees love this cheerful shrub that blooms at the end of the summer. Low growing to 3' it is an excellent choice for dry sunny spots.</p>	<p>Dry sunny sites</p>	
	<p>Helen's Flower <i>Helenium autumnale</i></p> <p>Masses of autumn toned daisies for the late summer in yellow, gold, and rusty reds. The tall growing plant to 4' appreciates lots of water. Native to western North America.</p>	<p>Native</p> <p>Wet meadow</p>	

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	<p>'Autumn Joy' <i>Sedum</i> var.</p> <p>One of the longest seasons of interest of any perennial Autumn Joy starts to show colour in mid July and continues until frost. Compact plants, fleshy leaves, grows about 2' tall.</p>	Dry Sun	
	<p>Verbena <i>Verbena bonariensis</i></p> <p>Verbena is a short lived perennial that cheerfully self seeds wherever it is happy. Flowers are attractive to insects and are held on long stems up to 3-4' tall. Blooms summer through late fall.</p>	Dry Open meadows	

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