

PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS CALENDAR & PRACTICES TO SUPPORT POLLINATORS

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GREEN GARDENING WORKSHOP – Oct. 22, 2014

Increase Foraging Habitat – Succession of Flowers through Entire Growing Season – Plant in Clumps/Natural Drifts of Same Species and in Plant Corridors (Hedgerows)

Choose nectar and pollen-rich plants like native wildflowers and old-fashioned (non-native) varieties of perennial flowers that are **NOT** invasive. *A corridor of pollinator gardens in neighborhoods, cities, and rural areas around the country could provide enough habitat to restore healthy communities of beneficial insects and pollinators.*

PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS CALENDAR

Be aware that this plant list is a sampling of possible native and non-native plants available for pollinators.

Criteria for selection on this list: well-behaved; less “messy” than some; easy to find; drought-tolerant (“right plant, right plant”); multi-functional (two functions+); and focus on being good for variety of bees.

**Bloom times are approximate and will depend upon the weather that season as well as microclimates/site conditions; Observe bloom times of different species you’ve planted and tweak it so you have multiple species blooming over the growing season (Feb. – Oct.). You can find non-native “versions” of some native plants listed.*

WINTER – January – February*

- Cornelian Cherry – *Cornus mas*
- Hardy Cyclamen (or Persian Violet) -- *Cyclamen coum*
- BULBS – Narcissus (early varieties), Daffodil, and Crocus
- Hellebore – *Helleborus orientalis*
- Hybrid Mahonia – *Mahonia x media* ‘Charity’, ‘Winter Sun’, or ‘Arthur Menzies’
- Lily of the Valley Shrub - *Pieris japonica*
- Sweetbox – *Sarcococca ruscifolia*

Native Plants:

- Hazelnut – *Corylus cornuta var. californica*

EARLY – March

- Barberry – *Berberis thunbergii* and other species
- Eastern Redbud - *Cercis canadensis*
- Oregano – *Oreganum officinalis*

Native Plants:

- Red Columbine – *Aquilegia formosa*
- Kinnikinnik – *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
- Bleeding Heart - *Dicentra formosa* (flower through May)
- Wood Sorrel - *Oxalis oregana* (SHADE)
- Red-flowering Currant - *Ribes sanguineum*
- Western Trillium - *Trillium ovatum* (SHADE)

PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS CALENDAR (Continued)

EARLY – MID – April & May

- California Lilac – *Ceanothus impressus* ‘Vandenberg’ (dwarf variety), *C. spp*
- Rosemary – *Rosmarinus officinalis*
- Weigela – *Weigela florida* ‘Kolsunn’
- Native Plants:**
- Vine Maple – *Acer circinatum*
- Madrone - *Arbutus menziesii*
- Great Camas - *Camassia leitchlinii*
- Lupine – *Lupinus polyphyllus* (cut back after first bloom is done and get second bloom in early Summer)
- Mahonia – *Creeping (repens), Low (nervosa), and Tall (aquifolium)*
- Coast Penstemon - *Penstemon serrulatus*
- Pacific Ninebark - *Physocarpus capitatus*
- Cascara - *Rhamnus purshiana*
- Elderberry – *Sambucas racemosa*

MID – June, July, & August

- Cardoon – *Cynara cardunculus*
- Lavender – *Lavandula angustifolia* (some species bloom in May)
- Bee Balm – *Monarda didyma*
- Catmint - *Nepeta racemosa* ‘Walker’s Low’
- Black-eyed Susan – *Rudbeckia fulgida var. sullivantii* ‘Goldsturm’
- Salvia - *Salvia × sylvestris* ‘Mainacht’
- Linden – *Tilia americana* ‘Redmond’
- Native Plants:**
- Red Columbine – *Aquilegia formosa* (start in May)
- Salal - *Gaultheria shallon* (May & June)
- Oceanspray – *Holodiscus discolor*
- Mock Orange - *Philadelphus lewisii*
- Oregon Stonecrop – *Sedum oreganum*
- Snowberry - *Symphoricarpos albus* (start in May; for a bushy hedgerow)
- Evergreen Huckleberry – *Vaccinium ovatum* (April & May, too)

LATE – September & October

- Compact Strawberry Tree – *Arbutus unedo* ‘Compacta’ (can flower until December)
- Aster – *Aster × frikartii* ‘Monch’
- Heather - *Calluna vulgaris* ‘Spring Torch’ or ‘Firefly’ (starts in August)
- Hyssop – *Agastache species*
- Eleagnus – *Eleagnus pungens*
- Sea Holly – *Eryngium species*
- Blanketflower – *Gaillardia x grandiflora* ‘Gallo Fire’
- Sunflower – *Helianthus* ‘Lemon Queen’ and other species
- Sourwood – *Oxydendrum arboreum*
- Autumn Joy Stonecrop – *Sedum spectabilis* ‘Autumn Joy’
- Native Plants:**
- Fleabane - *Erigeron philadelphicus*
- Fireweed – *Epilobium angustifolium* (for meadow habitat; can spread a lot)

PRACTICES TO SUPPORT POLLINATORS

→ **Take Inventory of Existing Habitat** – Flowers, Nesting Sites (Ground - open dirt spots – some “no mulch” areas for many native bees), Woody materials available – hollow branches, stumps, snags, logs, etc.

→ **Allow Areas for Nesting, Egg-Laying, and Shelter**

--Untilled, Unmulched, Partially-bare Ground with access to some leaves and mud – Don’t till up the bee larvae in the ground – many bumblebees live there

--Undisturbed spots for hibernation/overwintering (low human activity) and let part of lawn grow wild

--Brush piles and hollow branches on the ground away from house

--Wooden blocks with proper-sized holes drilled into them for Mason Bees

→ **Provide a Landscape Free of Any Poisonous Chemicals (Organic Practices) and Use Natural Materials (no/little treated wood, plastics)**

→ **Provide a Birdbath or Catch Basin for Water Supply** – keep it clean since birds, butterflies, and bees may be using it and/or small mud puddle area

→ **Learn and Influence Others to Appreciate a Different and “Wilder” Aesthetic**

Leave some weeds when in bloom (like Dandelion) for pollinator food, then cut back before they go to seed; time pruning to allow plants to bloom fully for pollinators before cutting off flowers

→ **Ask Your Nurseries and Plant Growers if they use neonicotinoids or other pesticides** on plants you’re buying for pollinators – get more information from Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides -- www.pesticide.org.

→ **Educate Your Supervisors, Decision-Makers, and Customers** about pollinators – how important it is to support pollinators and what they can do to help; put up signs to explain what you’re doing and why as well as show them your successful stories with natural/organic garden care

→ **Look into Initiatives** and be part of the solution -- Living Building Challenge - <http://living-future.org/lbc>; Sustainable Sites Initiatives - <http://www.sustainablesites.org/>; and USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service - Pollinator Protection Initiative - <http://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/nrcs-pollinator-protection>

RESOURCES

1. Urban Pollination Project - <http://nwpollination.org> - local community project to maximize food yield and manage bee decline
2. Urban Bee Project in Seattle – more info <http://urbanbeeprojectseattle.com/pollinatorplantlist>
3. Pollinator Pathway - <http://www.pollinatorpathway.com/> - certification program & resources – local program going national
4. The Xerces Society has many resources like ***Pollinator Plants of Maritime Northwest*** and an awesome book, ***Attracting Native Pollinators***
http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/11/pnw_plants_bees_xerces_society_factsheet1.pdf
5. Pollinator Partnership - www.pollinator.org - ***Selecting Plants For Pollinators*** publication among other resources
6. Pollinator and Insect ID - www.discoverlife.org and <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/FAQ/natural-enemies-poster.pdf>
7. The Melissa Garden - <http://themelissagarden.com/plants.html> - extensive ***Plants for Pollinators*** list
8. Heidi Bohan – naturalist and author of ***People of Cascadia*** –
<http://www.heidibohan.com/People%20of%20Cascadia/Cascadia.htm> and other native plant experts with WA Native Plant Society - <http://wnps.org/> (great native plant database - <http://wnps.org/landscaping/herbarium/index.html>)
9. Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE - some grants available)
<http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/From-the-Field/Western-SARE-From-the-Field/Pollinator-Conservation>
10. Friends of the Earth – ***Bee Safe Gardening Tips*** -
http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/93/e9/4/4703/Tips_for_Gardeners.pdf
11. Technical Notes from U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service - Portland, OR – 2008 - ***Plants for Pollinators in Oregon*** -
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_041919.pdf
12. Royal Horticultural Society (similar climate to Seattle area) – ***Perfect for Pollinators Plant List*** -
https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/pdf/conservation-and-biodiversity/wildlife/rhs_pollinators_plantlist