



Bees Love These Plant Families

All varieties mentioned are easily grown in central British Columbia's Cariboo zone 3 climate; they're hardy, non-invasive & ornamental

- Group several "bee" plants together in flowering patches of one meter squared, to increase overall attraction of the site to a greater diversity of bees.
- Create homes for bees! Many of the wild bees you may encounter in your backyard garden make their burrow homes in the soil or in holes in trees. They'll also appreciate a source for fresh water.
- Please don't use commercial pesticides in your garden, there are many organic options.

Apiaceae - Carrot family

- **Sea Holly** - *Eryngium planum* - Perennial. Bristly blue flowers & very long bloom time.
- **Dill & Fennel** - *Anethum graveolens* & *Foeniculum vulgare* - Annual herbs. Ferny foliage, heads of yellow flowers.
- **False Queen Anne's Lace** - *Ammi majus* - Annual. Beautiful white flowers.
- **Blue Lace Flower** - *Didiscus caerulea* - Annual. Umbels of fragrant, pale blue flowers.

Asteraceae - Daisy, Aster, Sunflower family

- **Sunflower** - *Helianthus annuus* - Annual. All varieties are excellent bee forage.
- **Echinacea** aka **Coneflower** - *Echinacea* species - Perennial. Shades of purple & white, blooms late summer & fall.
- **Blanketflower** - *Gaillardia* species - Annuals & perennials. Bright yellow, gold, orange & red daisies.
- **Cosmos** - *Cosmos bipinnatus* - Annual. Large daisy-like blooms in pink, purple & white; ferny foliage
- **Joe-Pye Weed** - *Eupatorium purpureum* - Perennial. Tall, with fragrant, soft purple blooms in summer & fall.
- **Globe Thistle** - *Echinops ritro* - Perennial. Perfectly round blue flowerheads in summer.
- **Strawflower** - *Helichrysum bracteatum* - Annual. Papery double blooms in shades of white, gold, crimson & pink.
- **Ageratum/Flossflower** - *Ageratum houstonianum* - Annual. Dwarf plants; dense heads of feathery blue flowers.

Boraginaceae – Borage or Forget-me-not family

- **Borage** - *Borago officinalis* - Annual herb. Bristly, cucumber-scented foliage; star-shaped blue flowers.
- **Lungwort** - *Pulmonaria sp.* - Perennial. White-spotted foliage & nodding pink & blue flowers in early spring.
- **Phacelia** - *Phacelia tanacetifolia* & other species - Self-sowing annual. Attractive ferny foliage; blue & purple flowers.
- **Heliotrope** - *Heliotropium arborescens* - Annual. Dense heads of very fragrant purple flowers.

Brassicaceae - Brassica (Cabbage) family

- **Sweet Alyssum** - *Lobularia maritima* - Annual. Short; very fragrant; blooms all summer; white, pink, purple.
- **Dame's Rocket** - *Hesperis matronalis* - Biennial. Purple & white; fragrant.
- **Honesty, Money Plant** - *Lunaria annua* - Biennial. purple flowers; ornamental seed pods.
- **Candytuft** - *Iberis umbellata* - Annual. Shades of pink, purple & white; fragrant.

Fabaceae - Legume (Pea) family

- **Alfalfa** - *Medicago sativa* - Perennial. Purple flowers; common hayfield & roadside plant.
- **Sweet Clover** - *Mellilotus officinalis* - Biennial. Yellow or white; very fragrant; hayfield & roadside plant.
- **Crimson Clover** - *Trifolium incarnatum* - Annual. Large crimson flowerheads.
- **Faba Bean** - Annual. Fragrant white blooms; edible seeds.
- **Runner Bean** - Annual. Climbing vine; scarlet blooms; edible bean pods.
- **Caragana** - Large shrub. Ornamental foliage; small yellow flowers.
- **Lupins** - *Lupinus sp.* - Perennial. Densely packed flower spikes in early summer; many colours.

Lamiaceae - Sage family

- **Anise-Hyssop** - *Agastache species* - Annual. Aromatic foliage & spikes of fragrant flowers; purples, oranges, reds.
- **Bee Balm** - *Monarda didyma* (Perennial; many named varieties in red, purple or white); *M. citriodora* (Lemon Bergamot; annual; purple); *M. fistulosa* (Horse Mint; perennial; native Cariboo wildflower; light purple)
- **Catnip & Cat Mint** - *Nepeta cataria* (Catnip; perennial; white flowers), *N. faassenii* & *N. mussini* (Cat Mints; perennial; ornamental; purple flowers; nice varieties are "Six Hills Giant" & "Dropmore Blue")
- **Lavender** - *Lavendula angustifolia* - Perennial. "Munstead" variety is the hardiest in the Cariboo. Fragrant!
- **Sage** - *Salvia species* - Many perennials & annuals. Try the edible herb Sage (*S. officinalis*); *S. superba* "Blue Queen" & "Rose Queen"; Clary Sage (*S. sclarea*); Meadow Sage (*S. pratensis*); Painted Sage (*S. horminum*)
- **Mint** - *Mentha piperita* & many other species - Perennial herb. Fragrant foliage; spikes of white or purple flowers.
- **Thyme** - *Thymus species* - Perennial herbs. Low growing; pink, purple & white blooms; very fragrant.

Malvaceae - Mallow family

- **Hollyhock** - *Alcea rosea* - Biennial. Tall spikes of double or single flowers; many colours.
- **Lavatera** - *Lavatera trimestris* - Annual. Very long bloom time; pink or white.
- **Muskmallow** - *Malva moschata* - Perennial. Pink or white.
- **Zebra Mallow** - *Malva sylvestris* - Annual. Striped purple flowers.

Rosaceae - Rose family

- **All fruit trees in the Rosaceae family, such as Apple, Crabapple & Cherry** - bloom time is relatively brief but abundant flowers provide important bee forage in spring before herbaceous plants are blooming in any quantity.
- **Rose** - *Rosa species* - many - In the Cariboo, *R. rugosa* is particularly hardy & almost everblooming; look for "Hansa", "Blanc de Coubert", or any of the *rugosa* hybrids in the Canadian Explorer series. The native wild roses are also abundant bloomers in early summer & should be encouraged on roadsides & marginal land.

Scrophulariaceae - Figwort family

- **Snapdragon** - *Antirrhinum majus* - Annual. Spikes of dragonhead-shaped flowers; many colours.
- **Foxglove** - *Digitalis purpurea* & other species - Biennial & perennial. Tall spikes of nodding flowers.
- **Ornamental Mullein** - *Verbascum phoeniceum* (Greek Mullein - dwarf; pinks & purples), *V. blattaria* (Moth Mullein - mid-height; white & yellow), & any of the tall yellow-flowered species

And a Few Others:

- **Showy Stonecrop** - *Sedum x hybrids* - Perennial. "Autumn Joy" & many other good varieties; excellent bloomer with broccoli-like heads of purple flowers late summer & fall; bee magnet.
- **Statice** - *Limonium sinuatum* - Annual. Clusters of papery flowers in shades of white, yellow, purple and pink.
- **Godetia** - *Clarkia amoena* - Annual. Large, satin-textured, pink blooms.
- **Buckwheat** - *Fagopyrum esculentum* - Annual. Lush green foliage; clusters of white flowers; commonly used as a cover crop & edible seed plant. Sow a patch in your vegetable garden for the bees, then till under after blooming to enrich the soil.

Some of the pollinating bees you may be inviting:

- **Bumble bees** - (*Bombus terrestris*) - social, large, fuzzy, noisy flight, boisterous behavior
- **Honey bees** - (*Apis mellifera*) - social, busy, smaller and less fuzzy than bumble bees
- **Leaf-cutter bees** - (*Halictid*) - solitary, small black or metallic colored bees
- **Mason bees** - (*Megachilidae including Osmia*) - solitary, often metallic blue or black
- **Other Apidae species** - social, large stingless bees
- **Plasterer bee** - (*Colletes*)
- **Mining bees** - (*Adrena*)
- **Digger bees** - (*Anthrophora*)



**REMEMBER TOO THAT BEES THRIVE ON DANDELIONS
WEED FREE LAWNS ARE NOT BEE-FRIENDLY!**

Cariboo bee-friendly plant list kindly compiled for Bee Happy Honey & our local bees by Barb Scharf of Hill Farm Nursery, Macalister, B.C. www.hillfarmnursery.com (04/15)