

A guide to plant favourites of specific bee species

HERBS

<i>Herbs</i>	<i>Info</i>	<i>Flower Season</i>	<i>Honeybee</i>	<i>Bumble bee</i>	<i>Mining Bee</i>	<i>Carder Bee</i>	<i>Mason bee</i>
Borage	Flowering from spring through to autumn the flowers are rich in nectar and pollen.	Summer	Y	Y			
Chives	Great as it flowers late in the season.	Summer	Y	Y			Y
Fennel	Fennel offers both nectar and pollen for the bees. A food source with great longevity.	Early summer	Y	Y			
Marjoram	Nectar rich flowers	Spring	Y	Y			Y
Mint	Loved by long tongued bees	Summer/early autumn		Y		Y- Wool Carder	
Oregano	Favourite of the honeybee	Early summer	Y				
Rosemary	Flowers in spring and provides much needed nectar to bees.	Winter/Spring	Y	Y	Y		Y
Thyme	It isn't just honey bees which love thyme. It's also loved by bumble bees.	Summer	Y	Y			Y
Sage		Autumn	Y	Y- Long tongued			

TREES

<i>Trees</i>	<i>Info</i>	<i>Flower Season</i>	<i>Honeybee</i>	<i>Bumble bee</i>	<i>Mining Bee</i>	<i>Carder Bee</i>	<i>Mason bee</i>
Acacia	Masses of yellow, scented flowers.	Winter	Y				
Alder (Alnus)	Good very early source of pollen.	Winter	Y				
Black thorn (Prunus spinosa)	Common wild hedge plant. Masses of white flowers. Valuable source of early pollen.	Spring	Y				
Chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum)	The flowers appear in late spring to very early summer, providing a good source of pollen for honeybees.	Early summer	Y				
Chinese bean tree (Catalpa)	The scented flowers offer abundant nectar attracting bees	Late summer	Y				
Cherry Tree (Prunus)	Avoid double flowered varieties for bees. During spring, the white flowers that are a beacon for bees.	Spring	Y		Y		
Eucalyptus	Small flowers rich in nectar	Late summer	Y				

False Acacia (Robinia)		Early summer	Y				
Golden Rain tree (Koelreuteria)		Summer	Y				
Goats Willow		Spring		Y	Y		
Hazel (Corylus)	Early catkins a valuable source of pollen.	Winter	Y				
Holly (Ilex)	Evergreen, and the tiny flowers, attractive to bees.	Early summer	Y				
Hawthorn (Crataegus)	Common to the UK. can be profuse producers of nectar. The clustered white May blossom of the hawthorn is very important for solitary bees, including the specialist hawthorn-mining bee.	Summer	Y		Y-Ashy Mining Tawny Mining Hawthorn Mining	Y	
Honey Locust (Gleditsia)		Early summer	Y				
Indian Bean Tree (Catalpa)		Summer	Y				
Judas tree (Cercis)		Early spring	Y				
Lime (Tilia)	Can supply large quantities of nectar.	Summer	Y				
Maple	Specifically, ones which flower in the UK	Late spring	Y				
Mountain Ash (Rowan)		Late spring	Y				
Pagoda tree (Styphnolobium)		Late summer	Y				
Sweet Gum (Liquidambar)		Spring	Y				
Sycamore	Valuable nectar source	Late spring	Y				
Snow drop tree (Halesia)		Late spring	Y				
Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus)		Summer	Y				
White beam (Sorbus)		Late spring	Y				
Pussy willow (Salix)	The yellow, furry catkins of the pussy willow flower in early spring, providing a good source of food for queen bumblebees as they form their new colonies. The pollen and nectar are also valuable food sources for certain species of mining bees.	Spring			Y-Clarke's Mining Bee & Chocolate Mining Bee		
Willows (Salix)	Willows are a great source of early nectar for early-emerging honeybees.	Spring	Y	Y	Y- Tawny Mining	Y	

FRUIT & VEG

Plant	Info	Flower Season	Honeybee	Bumble bee	Mining Bee	Carder Bee	Mason bee
Apple	These deciduous trees produce flowers in springtime and rely on bees and other beneficial insects to pollinate them. In return they provide nectar to feed the hungry insects.	Spring	Y	Y	Y		Y Red Mason
Apricots		Spring	Y				
Blueberry		Spring	Y				
Bilberry	Produces copious nectar	Early Summer	Y				
Blackberry	Produces copious nectar	Late spring	Y		Y		
Crab apple	Bees adore apple blossom.	Spring	Y		Y		Y Red Mason
Cherry		Spring			Y		
Currant	Red currants, white currants and black currants all produce spring flowers that bees feed on.	Spring	Y				
Gooseberry	Another early Spring flowering fruit bush that will provide bees with nectar.	Spring	Y				
Loganberry	Produces copious nectar	Late summer	Y				
Pear Tree	Like apple trees, pears produce flowers in Spring that are reliant on bees for pollination.	Spring			Y		y- Red Mason
Plum Tree	Plum trees often flower very early in Spring for which early bees will be grateful	Spring or summer			Y		
Quince & Medlar		Spring	Y				
Raspberry	Produces copious nectar	Early autumn	Y	Y	Y- Tawny Mining bee		
Strawberries		Summer	Y	Y	Y		
Runner Bean		Early summer				Y- common carder	
Broad bean		Early summer				Y- common carder	
Kale		Spring	Y	Y	Y		

SHRUBS

Plant	Info	Flower Season	Honeybee	Bumble bee	Mining Bee	Carder Bee	Mason bee
Buddleia		Summer	Y	Y (Red Tailed)			
Berberis	Wide range all attractive to bees	Spring/ Early summer	Y				
Ceanothus	All varieties attractive to bees	Early summer	Y	Y			
Chaenomeles		Spring	Y				
Cistus		Early summer	Y				

Choisya		Early summer	Y					
Cotoneaster		Early summer	Y					
Cytisus	Early flowering	Spring	Y					
Deutzia		Early summer	Y					
Escallonia		Late summer	Y					
Hebe		Late summer	Y					
Helianthemum		Early summer	Y					
Hydrangeas	Only those with fertile florets are used by bees.	Summer/ Autumn	Y					
Kolkwitzia amabilis		Early summer	Y					
Lavender	Top plant for honey bees Flowering from spring through to Autumn, lavender attracts bees and is well worth growing in your garden.	Summer	Y	Y				Y- common carder
Lilac - Syringa	An early Spring flowering tree, lilac attracts bees and other pollinators. - Strongly scented	Spring	Y					
Mahonia	Valuable source of pollen early in the year. Great for winter active bumble bees.	Winter/ spring	Y	Y				
Myrtus		Late Summer	Y					
Osmanthus Burkwoodii	Attractive to most bees as highly scented.	Late spring	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Philadelphus	Strongly scented to attract bees	Summer	Y					
Pieris		Spring						
Potentilla		Summer	Y					
Perovskia	Excellent bee plant	Late summer	Y					
Prunus	Very attractive to bees in summer	Summer	Y					
Pyracanthas		Early summer	Y					
Roses	Only single flowering types- wild roses, crab apples	Early to late summer	Y					
Rhododendrons	Small varieties of rhodo's and azalea can be attractive to honey bees	Late spring	Y	Y				
Symphoricarpos	Copious amounts of nectar	Summer	Y					
Viburnum	Great for winter active bumble bees	Winter	Y	Y				
Weigela		Early summer	Y					

CLIMBERS

<i>Plant</i>	<i>Info</i>	<i>Flower Season</i>	<i>Honeybee</i>	<i>Bumble bee</i>	<i>Mining Bee</i>	<i>Carder Bee</i>	<i>Mason bee</i>
Clematis	Most large flowering hybrids only produce pollen and are attractive to bees	Depends on variety	Y				
Honeysuckle <i>(Lonicera periclymenum)</i>	Shrubby honeysuckles are better for bees than climbers as they have more open flowers with more nectar. Great for winter active bumble bees	Autumn/ Winter		Y- Garden and Carder			
Ivy	Flowers which bloom from late Summer and right through autumn and even into Winter provide nectar for bees.	Autumn/ winter	Y	Y			
Virginia Creeper		Summer	Y				
Wisteria		Spring	Y				

PERENNIALS AND ANNUALS

<i>Plant</i>	<i>Info</i>	<i>Flower Season</i>	<i>Honeybee</i>	<i>Bumble bee</i>	<i>Mining Bee</i>	<i>Carder Bee</i>	<i>Mason bee</i>
Aster	As summer ends, Asters provide a rich source of autumn pollen and nectar for honeybees	Autumn	Y				
Aquilegia	Great for providing food in shady areas	Summer		Y- Long tongued species- Bombus hortorum			
Aubrieta		Spring					
Blue bells	English bluebell	Spring		Y		Y	
Cornflowers	Another late flowering plant that lasts into late Autumn keeping late bees going.	Autumn	Y	Y			
Cat Mint	Great for providing food for bees in shady areas.	Autumn	Y				
Campanula		Summer		Y			
Crocus (Winter flowering)	An early source of pollen for bees. First port of call for the Hairy footed flower bee and queen bumble bees.	Autumn/ Winter	Y	Y			
Dicentra- Bleeding heart		Spring		Y			
Delphinium		Summer		Y			
Echinacea	Top plant for honey bees	Autumn	Y		Y- Tawny mining		
Forget me not		Spring			Y		Y
Foxgloves	This classic cottage garden plant is loved by long-tongued bumblebees such as the garden bumblebee and the common carder bee. With their trumpet like flowers foxgloves attract bees to the shadier parts of the garden	Summer		Y- Long tongued e.g., Bombus hortorum		Y	
Geranium	Hardy	Early Summer		Y			
Hellebore	Top plant for Honey bees. Also great for early emerging, queen bees.	Winter/ early spring	Y	Y			
Heathers	Flowering from autumn and right through winter, heathers will provide food for bees that are late hibernating or who wake early. Great for winter active bumble bees	Autumn/Winter	Y	Y		Y- common carder	

Lungwort (Pulmonaria)	Great for shady area and providing food in the spring. Also loved by the Hairy-footed flower bee.	Winter/ early Spring		Y			
Lupin		Summer		Y			
Rudbeckia	Top plant for honey bees	Late summer	Y				
Sedums	Top plant for honey bees Popular with honeybees, furrow bees and the short-tongued bumble bee.	Summer	Y	Y- short tongued			
Snow drops	Great for winter active bumble bees	Winter	Y	Y	Y- Tawny mining		
Salvia	Top plant for honey bees	Summer	Y		Y- tawny mining		
Scabious		Summer		Y (White Tailed)			
Verbena bonariensis	Top plant for honey bees	Summer	Y	Y	y- Tawny mining		
Wall flowers (Erysimum)	Honeybees love the easily accessible blooms. All are exceptionally long flowering, especially 'Bowles's Mauve', which is capable of flowering all year if continually deadheaded.	Spring	Y		Y	Y- Common carder	Y- Red mason
Sunflowers	When the heads open, they reveal a bonanza of tiny pollen- and nectar-rich flowers.	Summer	Y	Y			
Cosmos	Top plant for honey bees Bees are attracted to the large open flowers and as long as you deadhead them, they will continue to bloom from early summer right up until the first frosts come.	Summer	Y	Y	Y- tawny mining		

NATIVE PLANTS

<i>Plant</i>	<i>Info</i>	<i>Flower Season</i>	<i>Honeybee</i>	<i>Bumble bee</i>	<i>Mining Bee</i>	<i>Carder Bee</i>	<i>Mason bee</i>
Comfrey	It has a long flowering period that's loved by honey bees and bumblebees, especially species with long tongues.	Winter/ Early Spring	Y	Y			
Clovers	In summer, you'll find red clover and white clover buzzing with bumblebees. The flowers of red clover are particularly adored by both rare and common bumblebees.	Late summer		Y			
Greater knapweed	It is a magnet to pollinating insects. Greater knapweed is a common meadow wildflower, but it also looks fabulous among other plants in an herbaceous border.	Summer		Y			
Yarrow		Autumn			Y		Y
Vipers Bugloss	Will attract a cloud of bumblebees in high summer. Perhaps the best single plant to attract bumblebees to your garden. Much loved by almost all species, and it looks great too.	Summer		Y			