

# Native Plants for Bees

Honeybees, native bees and other insect pollinators



## Trees:

Name	Bloom-time	Family	Nectar/Pollen
Alder, <i>Alnus rubra</i>	Feb-Apr	Birch	N/P
Willows, <i>Salix sp.</i>	Feb-Apr	Willow	P
Big-leaf Maple, <i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	Mar-Jun	Maple	N/P
Black Cottonwood, <i>Populus balsamifera ssp. trichocarpa</i>	Mar-Jun	Willow	P & Propolis**
Pacific Madrone, <i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	Mar-Jun	Heath	N/P
Pacific Crabapple, <i>Malus fusca</i>	Apr-May	Rose	N/P
Bitter Cherry, <i>Prunus emarginata</i>	Apr-Jun	Rose	N/P
Black Hawthorns, <i>Crataegus douglasii</i> & <i>C. suksdorfii</i>	May-Jun	Rose	N/P
Cascara, <i>Frangula (Rhamnus) purshiana</i>	May-Jun	Buckthorn	N/P
Pines, <i>Pinus sp.</i>	May-Jul	Pine	P & Propolis**

## Shrubs and vines:

 Look for other plants in these families, too!

Beaked Hazelnut, <i>Corylus cornuta</i>	Jan-Mar	Birch	P
Indian Plum, <i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	Feb-Apr	Rose	N/P
Currants and gooseberries, <i>Ribes sp.</i>	Mar-May	Currant	N/P
Manzanita & Kinnikinnick, <i>Arctostaphylos sp.</i>	Mar-Jun	Heath	N/P
Oregon Grapes, <i>Mahonia sp.</i>	Apr-May	Barberry	N/P
Pacific Rhododendron, <i>Rhododendron macrophyllum</i>	Apr-May	Heath	N/P
<b>Huckleberries Blueberries, Bilberries, Cranberries,</b> <i>Vaccinium sp.</i>	Apr-May	Heath	N/P
Salal, <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	Apr-May	Heath	N/P
Pacific Ninebark, <i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	Apr-Jun	Rose	N/P
Elderberries, <i>Sambucus sp.</i>	Apr-Jul	Honeysuckle	N/P
Honeysuckles and Twinberry, <i>Lonicera sp.</i>	Apr-Aug	Honeysuckle	N/P
<b>Brambles</b> —Black Dewberry, Salmonberry, Thimbleberry, Black Raspberry, <i>Rubus sp.</i>	Apr-Aug	Rose	N/P
Saskatoon Serviceberry, <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	May-Jun	Rose	N/P
Deerbrush, Snowbrush, Buckbrush, Wild lilacs, <i>Ceanothus sp.</i>	May-Jun	Buckthorn	N/P
Wild Roses, <i>Rosa sp.</i>	May-Jul	Rose	N/P
Pacific Mock Orange, <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	May-Jul	Hydrangea	N/P
Ocean Spray, <i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Jun-Jul	Rose	N/P
Snowberry, <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	May-Aug	Honeysuckle	N/P

## References:

**Pollen Nectar Plant Checklist**, Master Beekeeper Research Paper by Franclyn Heinecke, 2011:

<http://www.pugetsoundbees.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Forage-W-of-Cascades.pdf>

**Pacific Northwest Plants for Native Bees - The Xerces Society:** [http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/11/pnw\\_plants\\_bees\\_xerces\\_society\\_factsheet1.pdf](http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/11/pnw_plants_bees_xerces_society_factsheet1.pdf)

**Selecting Plants for pollinators:** <http://www.pollinator.org/PDFs/Guides/PacificLowlandrx9FINAL.pdf>

## Herbaceous Perennials/annuals:

Coltsfoot, <i>Petasites frigidus</i> var. <i>palmatus</i>	Feb-Apr	Aster	N/P
California Poppy, <i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	Mar-Jul	Poppy	N/P
Monkeyflowers, <i>Mimulus</i> sp.	Mar-Aug	Figwort	N/P
Camas, <i>Camassia</i> sp.	Apr-Jun	Lily	N/P
Larkspur, <i>Delphinium</i> sp.	Apr-Jun	Ranunculus	N/P
Fringecup, <i>Tellima grandiflora</i>	Apr-Jul	Saxifrage	N/P
Strawberries, <i>Fragaria</i> sp.	Apr-Aug	Rose	N/P
Violets, <i>Viola</i> sp.	Apr-Aug	Violet	N/P
Yarrow, <i>Achillea millifolium</i>	Apr-Oct	Aster	N/P
Pacific Waterleaf, <i>Hydrophyllum tenuipes</i>	May-Jul	Borage	N/P
Stonecrops, <i>Sedum</i> sp.	May-Aug	Stonecrop	N/P
Woolly Sunflower, <i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>	May-Aug	Aster	N/P
Wild Buckwheat, <i>Eriogonum</i> sp.	May-Oct	Buckwheat	N/P
<b>Fireweed</b> , <i>Chamerion (Epilobium) angustifolium</i>	Jun-Aug	Evening Primrose	N/P
Fleabanes, <i>Erigeron</i> sp.	Jun-Aug	Aster	N/P
Beardtongues, <i>Penstemon</i> sp.	Jun-Aug	Figwort	N/P
<i>Clarkia</i> sp.	Jun-Aug	Evening Primrose	N/P
Twinflower, <i>Linnaea borealis</i>	Jun-Sep	Honeysuckle	N/P
Harebell, <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Jun-Sep	Bellflower	N/P
Lupines, <i>Lupinus</i> sp.	Jun-Sep	Pea	N/P
Asters, <i>Symphyotrichum</i> sp.	Jul-Sep	Aster	N/P
Canada Goldenrod, <i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Jul-Oct	Aster	N/P

\*Plants in Boldface are important forage for honeybees.

\*\*Propolis is a resinous material that honey bees produce with exudate gathered from tree buds, sap flows, etc. It is used as a sealant and to help exclude dangerous microbes and fungi from the hive.

+Many cultivated plants and weeds are also very attractive to bees: Many culinary herbs, **clovers**, sunflowers, cole crops (Brassica sp., broccoli, kale, cabbage, etc.)

+Early non-natives such as Winter Heathers and Pieris sp. may be beneficial for bees that are venturing out early.

Top: Harebell, Yellow violet;  
Bottom: Clarkia, Evergreen  
Huckleberry, Fringecup, Twinflower,  
Lupine.

### Bee Flowers

- Often irregular shaped flowers.
- Yellow, blue, violet (& ultraviolet) flowers.
- Scented.
- Colored guides on landing platform formed by lower petal.
- It often requires the bee to enter the flower.

