

Planting for Pollinators

Gardening to encourage pollinators allows us to understand and appreciate a part of nature we usually don't notice: the insects. Once you start paying attention, you will find a whole world that is even more complex, fascinating and important than you may have realized. Through simply looking for food, thousands of species of insects (and animals) help plants to reproduce. It has been estimated that roughly 90% of the flowering plants worldwide require an insect or animal to distribute their pollen in order to set fruit and seed. That includes one-third of all crops grown for people, including citrus fruits, almonds, berries, squash and cotton.

Most people know that bees are important pollinators, but that's not all. Many species of butterflies, bats, birds, moths, flies, wasps, and even mammals are also pollinators. They are so essential to reproduction that much of the world's plant life could not exist without them. Would you like to attract pollinating insects onto your land? Many of these insects are tiny and need very small flowers. Review this fact sheet for the plants, shrubs and trees that will do the best job.

APRIL

Trees: Corneliancherry dogwood - *Cornus mas*
Red maple - *Acer rubrum*

Shrubs: Mt. Pieris - *Pieris floribunda*
Winter-fragrant honeysuckle - *Lonicera fragrantissima*

Perennials: Virginia bluebells - *Mertensia virginica*
Dandelions

MAY

Trees: Alternate leaf dogwood - *Cornus alternifolia*
American holly - *Ilex opaca*
Crabapple - *Malus* spp.
Serviceberry - *Amelanchier laevis*
Tupelo - *Nyssa sylvatica*

Shrubs: Bearberry - *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
Blueberry - *Vaccinium corymbosum*
Fothergilla - *Fothergilla major*, *F. gardenii*
Inkberry - *Ilex glabra*
Red-veined Enkianthus - *Enkianthus campanulatus*
Shadbush - *Amelanchier canadensis*
Raspberry - *Rubus* varieties
Redbud - *Cercis canadensis*
Winterberry - *Ilex verticillata*

Perennials: 'May Night' salvia - *Salvia* 'May Night'
Chives: *Allium schoenoprasum*
Columbine - *Aquilegia canadensis*, *Aquilegia* hybrids
Hardy geranium - *Geranium* spp.
Mountain bluet - *Centaurea montana*
Ornamental Onions - *Allium*, various species
Moss phlox - *Phlox subulata*
Woodland phlox - *Phlox divaricata*

JUNE

Trees: American linden - *Tilia americana*
Tulip tree - *Liriodendron tulipifera*
Yellowwood - *Cladrastis kentuckea*

Shrubs: Smooth hydrangea - *Hydrangea arborescens*

Perennials: Beebalm - *Monarda didyma*
Bellflower - *Campanula* spp.
Borage - *Borago officinalis*
Catmint - *Nepeta* spp.
Mountain mint - *Monarda punctata*
Foxglove - *Digitalis* spp.
Pincushion flower - *Scabiosa caucasica*
Queen Anne's Lace
Stokes aster - *Stokesia laevis*
Thyme - *Thymus* spp.
Yarrow - *Achillea* spp.

JULY

Trees: Goldenrain tree - *Koelreuteria paniculata*
Sourwood - *Oxydendrum arboreum*

Shrubs: Sweet Pepperbush - *Clethra alnifolia*
Ninebark - *Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Diablo', 'Summer Wine'
Panicle hydrangea - *Hydrangea paniculata*
Shining sumac - *Rhus coppalina*
Butterfly bush - *Buddleia davidii*

Perennials: Black eye Susan - *Rudbeckia* spp.
Butterfly weed - *Asclepias tuberosa*
Coneflower - *Echinacea purpurea*
Coreopsis - *Coreopsis grandiflora*, *C. lanceolata*, *C. verticillata*
False sunflower - *Heliopsis* 'Summer Sun'
Gayfeather - *Liatris spicata*
Globe thistle - *Echinops ritro*
Anise hyssop - *Agastaches* spp.
Swamp milkweed - *Asclepias incarnate*

Herbs: Dill
Lavender
Oregano
Rosemary

Annuals: Calendula
Cosmos
Mallows
Nasturtium
Snapdragon
Sunflower
Verbena bonariensis

AUGUST

Shrubs: Blue mist shrub - *Caryopteris x clandonensis*
Chaste tree - *Vitex* spp.
Glossy abelia - *Abelia grandiflora*

Perennials: 'Autumn Joy' sedum - *Sedum* spp.
Sneezeweed - *Helenium autumnale*

SEPTEMBER

Shrubs: Seven-son flower - *Heptacodium miconioides*

Perennials: Golden rod - *Solidago* spp.
New York ironweed - *Veronia novaboracensis*

OCTOBER

Shrubs: Witch hazel - *Hamamelis virginiana*

Perennials: Asters - *Aster* spp. 'Sheffield Pink' Chrysanthemum
Nippon daisy - *Chrysanthemum nipponicum*

UMass Extension Agriculture and Landscape Program 4/12