

# Plants for Pollinators: Southern Oregon

Pollinators forage for both pollen and nectar throughout the year. Native plants provide great resources for pollinators and low-maintenance options for property owners. However, nectar flow from these indigenous sources tends to falter in the drought of late summer, leading to nectar dearths. Honey bee colonies preparing for winter can struggle during this period. Invasive plants like blackberries, thistles or knapweeds do provide nectar, but their intentional use is highly discouraged. You can help by planting:

- \* local native plants (designated with *N*);
- \* flowers with varying colors, shapes, and sizes to appeal to diverse pollinator species;
- \* in groups, ideally four feet across;
- \* successions of species selected to provide blooms throughout the seasons.

In choosing trees, shrubs, and garden plants marketed as "bee friendly," keep in mind that some growers may treat their stock with chemicals that are potentially harmful to pollinators. OSU's excellent booklet, "How to Reduce Bee Poisoning from Pesticides," accessible free online as a PDF, can aid in understanding this issue better. Asking about insecticides when you buy can help you make an informed decision and send a message to retailers that pollinator safety is important to their customers.

Remember to provide nesting habitat near your pollinator plantings. Areas of dry, uncultivated soil will accommodate solitary ground-nesting bees, while the dried stems, canes, and wood debris will host tube-nesting pollinators.

*Here are a few planting suggestions to get you started:*

## Spring

### Trees and Shrubs

Antelope Brush (*Purshia tridentata*) Shrub *N*  
Apple, Many varieties (*Malus spp.*) Tree  
Ceanothus -- Lower elev. (*Ceanothus spp.*) Shrub *N*  
Cottonwood, Black (*Populus trichocarpa*) Tree *N*  
Currants, Wild (*Ribes spp.*) Shrub *N*  
Hawthorne (*Crataegus spp.*) Small Tree  
Locust, Black (*Robinia pseudoacacia* L.) Tree  
Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*) *N*  
Maple (*Acer spp.*) Tree  
Oregon Grape (*Mahonia spp.*) Shrub *N*  
Pear, Many varieties (*Pyrus*) Tree  
Plum (*Prunus spp.*) Tree  
Serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*) Shrub  
Willow (*Salix spp.*) Shrub, Tree *N*

### Perennials, Annuals and Bulbs

Balsam Root (*Balsamorhiza deltoidea*) Perennial  
Bugle Weed (*Ajuga reptans*) Groundcover  
Squill, Glory of the Snow (*Chionodoxa spp.*) Bulb  
Clover, Crimson (*Trifolium incarnatum* L.) Annual  
Crocus (*Crocus spp.*) Bulb  
Foxtail Lily (*Eremerus spp.*) Perennial  
Lupine (*Lupinus spp.*) Annual, perennial *N*  
Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus* L.) Biennial  
Mustard, common (*Brassica campestris*) Biennial  
Pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium* L.) Perennial  
Phacelia (*Phacelia spp.*) Annual and perennial  
Poppy, California (*Eschscholzia californica*) Peren.  
Squill (*Chionodoxa, Puschkinia & Scilla spp.*) Bulb  
Sweet Clover, White (*Melilotus alba*) Annual/Bien.  
Wyethia (*Wyethia amplexicaulis*) Perennial *N*

# Summer

## Trees and Shrubs

Basswood (*Tilia cordata*) Tree  
Clematis (*Clematis lingusticifolia* Nutt.) Woody vine  
Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster spp.*) Shrub  
Hyssop (*Hyssopus officinalis*) Shrub  
Rose, Hardy Shrub (*Rosa spp.*) Shrub  
Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) Shrub  
Silver Lace Vine (*Polygonum auberti*) Vine  
Snowberry (*Symphoricarpus albus*) Shrub N  
Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus*) Climbing Vine

## Perennials, Annuals, Bulbs, etc.

Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) Perennial  
Bachelor's Button (*Centaurea Cyanus*) Annual  
Borage (*Borago officinalis* L.) Annual

Buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum*) Annual  
Catnip (*Nepeta cataria* L.) Perennial  
Chicory (*Chichorium intybus*) Perennial  
Clovers (*Trifolium spp.*) Annual, Perennial  
Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) Biennial  
Dogbane (*Apocynum spp.*) Perennial  
Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*) Perennial N  
Flax, European (*Linum usitatissimum*) Annual  
Lavender (*Lavandula spp.*) Perennial  
Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea* L.)  
Perennial N  
Penstemon (*Penstemon spp.*) Annual, perennial N  
Squash (*Cucurbita pepo* L.) Annual Vine  
Thyme (*Thymus spp.*) Herb

# Fall

## Trees and Shrubs

Chaparral Broom (*Baccharis pilularis*) Shrub  
Rabbitbrush (*Chrysosamnus spp.*) Shrub N

## Perennials, Annuals, etc.

Aster (*Aster spp.*) Perennial  
Beggar-Ticks (*Bidens frondosa*) Perennial Herb N  
Chicory (*Chichorium intybus*) Perennial

Goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*) Perennial  
Hyssop, Anise (*Agastache foeniculum*) Perennial  
Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea* L.)  
Perennial N  
Penstemon (*Penstemon spp.*) Annual, perennial N  
Salvia (*Salvia spp.*) Annual, Perennial

# Resources

Oregon State Beekeepers Association [www.orsba.org](http://www.orsba.org). See "Regional Associations" for a group near you.

Oregon Master Beekeeper Program [www.oregonmasterbeekeeper.org](http://www.oregonmasterbeekeeper.org)

OSU Honey Bee Lab [honeybeelab.oregonstate.edu](http://honeybeelab.oregonstate.edu) Find the booklet, "How to Reduce Bee Poisoning from Pesticides" under "Info for Beekeepers".

Xerces Society [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org)

The Melissa Garden [www.themelissagarden.com](http://www.themelissagarden.com)

Pollinator Partnership [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org)

Native Pollinator [www.nativepollinator.com](http://www.nativepollinator.com)

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