

# Plants for Pollinators

## Willamette Valley

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 Himalayan and Evergreen blackberry 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

Apple, Many varieties (*Malus spp.*) Tree  
Blackberry, Pacific (*Rubus ursinus*) Trailing Shrub **N**  
Blueberry (*Vaccinium Cyanococcus*) Shrub  
Crab Apple, Western (*Malus fusca*) Tree **N**  
Cascara, Buckthorn (*Rhamnus purshiana*) Tree **N**  
Cherry, Bitter (*Prunus emarginata*) Tree **N**  
Hawthorne (*Crataegus spp.*) Small Tree  
Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) Tree  
Huckleberry (*Vaccinium spp.*) Shrub **N**  
Madrone, Pacific (*Arbutus menziesii*) Tree **N**  
Maple, Big Leaf and Vine (*Acer spp.*) Tree **N**  
Ninebark, Pacific (*Physocarpus capitatus*) Shrub **N**  
Pear, Many varieties (*Pyrus*) Tree  
Plum, Many varieties (*Prunus domestica L.*) Tree  
Privet (*Ligustrum spp.*) Tall Shrub  
Quince (*Cydonia oblonga*) Tree

Quince, Flowering (*Chaenomeles spp.*) Shrub  
Raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*) Shrub  
Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) Shrub **N**  
Willow (*Salix spp.*) Shrub, Tree **N**

### Perennials, Annuals and Bulbs

Balsam Root (*Balsamorhiza deltoidea Nutt.*) Peren.  
Clover, Crimson (*Trifolium incarnatum L.*) Annual  
Crocus (*Crocus spp.*) Bulb  
Hellebore (*Helleborus x hybridus*) Perennial  
Pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium L.*) Perennial  
Phacelia (*Phacelia spp.*) Annual and perennial  
Poppy, California (*Eschscholzia californica*) Peren.  
Skunk Cabbage (*Lysichitum americanum*) Peren. **N**  
Squill (*Chionodoxa, Puschkinia & Scilla spp.*) Bulb  
Strawberry (*Fragaria spp.*) Perennial **N**  
Vetch, Hairy (*Vicia sativa L.*) Perennial  
Wyethia (*Wyethia angustifolia*) Perennial **N**

## Summer

### Trees and Shrubs

Basswood (*Tiliaceae spp.*) Tree  
Buckwheat tree (*Cliftonia monophylla*) Shrub  
Catalpa (*Catalpa spp.*) Tree  
Ceanothus (*Ceanothus spp.*) Shrub *N*  
Clematis (*Clematis lingusticifolia Nutt.*) Woody vine  
Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster spp.*) Shrub  
Golden Rain Tree (*Koesreuteria paniculata*) Tree  
Grape (*Vitis spp.*) Woody vine  
Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) Shrub *N*  
Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus*) Climbing Vine

### Perennials, Annuals, Bulbs, etc.

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  
Lupine (*Lupinus spp.*) Perennial *N*  
Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*) Perennial *N*  
Fox Glove (*Digitalis purpurea L.*) Biennial  
Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis marg.*) Perennial  
Penstemon (*Penstemon spp.*) Annual/Peren.  
Russian Sage (*Perovskia spp.*) Perennial  
Sunflower (*Helianthus annus*) Annual

## Fall

### Trees and Shrubs

Chaparral Broom (*Baccharis pilularis*) Shrub *N*

### Perennials, Annuals, etc.

Aster (*Aster spp.*) Perennial  
Beggar-Ticks (*Bidens frondosa*) Perennial *N*

Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia pulchella*) Annual  
Goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*) Perennial  
Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis marg.*) Perennial *N*  
Salvia (*Salvia spp.*) Annual, Perennial  
Stonecrop (*Sedum spp.*) Perennial

## Winter

Heather (*Erica vulgaris*) Low Shrub  
Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis spp.*) Large Shrub  
Hazel Nut (*Corylus spp.*) Small Tree *N*

Laurel, California (*Umbellularia californica*) Tree  
Snow Drops (*Galanthus spp.*) Bulb

## 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)

This information brought to you courtesy of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association, Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, and Umpqua Bank.

