

Plants for Pollinators

Common Name	Scientific Name	Form	Origin	Description
Anise Hyssop	<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	Perennial	Northern tier of US states & southern Canada	Fragrant but short-lived perennial with pale purple flowers that the bees love. Medicinal and culinary uses.
Apache Plume	<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i>	Medium shrub	Southwest	Medium shrub blooms all summer, with white rose-like flowers and fluffy antique pink seed heads. Some similarity to smoke bush.
Arrowleaf Balsamroot	<i>Balsamorhiza sagittatus</i>	Perennial	West to the Dakotas	Iconic spring blooming yellow sunflower with large spade shaped leaves. Drought tolerant, growing in open forests, meadows and the sagebrush steppe. Takes 2-5 years to bloom.
Aster species	<i>Aster sp.</i>	Perennial	Continental US	Several species of aster grow well here and are great late season nectar and pollen for the bees. Must water when in bloom to produce nectar. Western Aster blooms in mid to late summer, followed by Smooth Blue Aster and New England Aster.
Azure Sage	<i>Salvia azurea</i>	Perennial	Midwestern & Eastern	Tall perennial with sky blue flowers in late summer. The rest of the year it is a linear accent plant.
Barrett's Penstemon	<i>Penstemon barrettiae</i>	Low shrub	OR, WA	Regional endemic - native nowhere else in the world. Evergreen shrub spreads to 3-5 feet with large, showy purple flowers in spring.
Beauty Bush	<i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i>	Tall shrub	Introduced	This drought tolerant shrub is covered with large, pink flowers in early summer. Butterflies and bees love it. Peeling bark. A messy but beautiful shrub found on older properties in our area. Popular in the 50s.
Beebalm	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Perennial	All US states except CA & FL. Most of Canada.	Tall, fragrant plant with purple flowers bees, butterflies and hummingbirds like. Medicinal and culinary uses.
Large Penstemon	<i>Penstemon grandiflorus</i>	Perennial	Midwestern	Large pale purple, pink or white flowers on a tall plant with pale, sea green leaves. Very showy summer bloomer.
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Perennial	Continent-wide	Yellow daisy with black center. Self-seeds readily.
Blanket Flower cultivars	<i>Gaillardia species</i>	Perennial	Continent-wide	Daisy flowers in reds and yellows.
Cascades Penstemon	<i>Penstemon serrulatus</i>	Perennial	OR, WA, AK, BC	Early summer bloomer with purple/blue flowers. Tolerates partial shade and more water than most Penstemon species.
Catmint	<i>Nepeta mussini</i>	Perennial	Introduced	Drought tolerant bee magnet. 2 feet wide by 12" high PERFECT mound, covered with blue flowers in June and occasionally in the fall.
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Tall shrub	North America	Native to most states and most of Canada. Great for birds! Edible, but bitter fruit.
Coneflower species	<i>Echinacea sp.</i>	Perennial	Midwestern	Three pink-flowered and one yellow flowered species. Large daisy-like flowers with golden brown centers on tall plants. Common in the nursery trade.
Lance-leaf Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Perennial	West coast, midwest and eastern US	Commonly grown yellow daisy-like flower on a 12 - 16" plant blooms in spring and summer.
Creeping Thyme	<i>Thymus sp.</i>	Ground cover	Introduced	Flat growing groundcover - lawn substitute. Drought tolerant. Several varieties including Creeping wooly thyme (CWT).

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Cutleaf Penstemon	<i>Penstemon richardsonii</i>	Perennial	WA, OR, BC	Semi-shrubby with hot pink, purple, blue or pink flowers. Long blooming. One of few summer blooming local natives.
Desert Yellow Daisy	<i>Erigeron linearis</i>	Perennial	WA, OR, ID, MT, NV, UT, WY, CA, BC	Locally native to dry rock outcrops in the sagebrush desert. Covered with cheery yellow flowers for many weeks in late spring to early summer. Sun or part shade.
Desert Penstemon	<i>Penstemon pseudospectabilis</i>	Perennial	UT, CA, AZ, NM	Large deep pink flowers in early summer are visited by bees and hummingbirds.
Douglas' Hawthorn, Black Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	Tall shrub	West Coast, northern tier states, AK & southern Canada	This thorny shrub's clusters of white flowers host pollinators in spring, and its black fruits are eaten by birds in summer. Magpies like to nest within the protection of its spines.
Fernbush	<i>Chamaebatiaria millefolium</i>	Medium shrub	OR, ID, NV, CA, UT, AZ	Drought adapted shrub with fragrant, ferny leaves and large conical clusters of white flowers in summer. Semi-evergreen.
Foxglove Penstemon	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Perennial	Midwest and eastern US	An easy – care, white flowered Great Plains species. Gently seeds itself but not invasive. Long-flowering in June and July.
Gayfeather species, Blazing star species	<i>Liatris sp.</i>	Perennial	North America	Many species with spikes of purple flowers. Some species are used in the florist trade.
Golden Currant	<i>Ribes aureum</i>	Medium - tall shrub	Most of the US, except the SE & far NE.	Great for birds! Edible fruit. The yellow spring flowers are fragrant.
Goldenrod species	<i>Solidago sp.</i>	Perennial	North America	Many species native to the West. GREAT for pollinators. <i>S. missouriensis</i> and <i>S. canadensis</i> native to WA. <i>S. missouriensis</i> rhizomateous but not aggressive. <i>S. canadensis</i> aggressive spreader except for cultivar 'Garden Baby'.
Gray Rabbitbrush	<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	Low -medium shrub	Throughout the West, western Midwest & SW Canada	Good late season nectar and pollen source.
Gray's Desert Parsley; Gray's Biscuit Root	<i>Lomatium grayi</i>	Spring ephemeral	WA, OR, ID, WY, NV, UT, CO, NM, BC	Bright yellow flowers in early spring. Foliage is finely divided and smells like celery. Like a spring bulb, it dies back in summer's heat.
Hot Rock Penstemon	<i>Penstemon deustus</i>	Perennial	WA, OR, ID, MT, WY, CA, NV, UT	Somewhat fragrant white flowers. Extremely drought tolerant.
Hummingbird Mint	<i>Agastache rupestris</i>	Perennial	NM, AZ	Short lived (3-5 years, sometimes more), fragrant perennial, attractive to hummingbirds. Worth replanting if it dies out.
Hummingbird Trumpet	<i>Zauschneria garrettiae</i>	Perennial	ID, WY, UT, AZ	Long blooming hummingbird plant with red, tubular flowers. Bloms mid to late summer. Low growing ground cover.
Indian Blanketflower	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	Perennial	Much of the US and Canada	Cheery early summer blooming daisy with a red center and yellow petals (ray flowers). Will rebloom if watered.
Lavender	<i>Lavandula officinalis</i>	Low shrub	Introduced	Classic fragrant, purple flowered shrub is attractive to bees and butterflies. Goldfinches eat the seeds.
Lewisia species	<i>Lewisia sp.</i>	Succulent	OR, CA	Dry garden or container. Partial shade tolerant.

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Medlar	<i>Mespilus germanica</i>	Tree	Introduced	Old European fruit tree has a low, rounded shape, rose-like flowers and edible fruit. It has been cultivated since Roman times.
Mockorange	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	Tall shrub	WA, OR, ID, MT, CA, BC	June-blooming with pure white, fragrant flowers. Also known as Syringa, the state flower of Idaho.
Narrowleaf Milkweed	<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	Perennial	WA, OR, ID, CA, NV, UT	Pollinator favorite with clusters of lavender-pink flowers. Spreads by underground runners. I have seen a Monarch butterfly on this plant, in open pine woods near the Spokane River.
New England Aster	<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	Perennial	Most of the Northern Hemisphere	The last great native bee plant to flower. Usually purple flowers, but may occasionally be pink shades. Keep watered during bloom time (late summer - fall) to ensure good nectar for bees.
Mallow ninebark	<i>Physocarpus malvaceus</i>	Medium shrub	WA, OR, ID, WY, NV, UT, CO, BC	Medium shrub with all season interest. Cute "doll bouquet" clusters of white flowers. Small, maple-like leaves. Good fall color. Peeling bark.
Northern Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum compositum</i>	Low shrub	WA, OR, ID, CA	Groundcover for the harshest, driest, most difficult to vegetate site. Broad grey-green leaves and large clusters of creamy white to pale yellow flowers in late spring-early summer. NOT evergreen, but starts growing early in the season. All the wild buckwheat species are very important pollinator plants for dry habitats.
Orange Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea munroana</i>	Perennial	WA, OR, ID, CA, WY, NV, UT, CO, BC	Sea green perennial with small orange hibiscus-like flowers. Blooms twice a summer. Very tough and drought adapted.
Orange Milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Perennial	US except for WA, OR, MT, UT, NV & SD	Bright orange flowers in summer are bee favorites and Monarch hosts. Does NOT spread by runners.
Oregon-grape	<i>Mahonia repens, Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Shrub	Continental North America	Fragrant clusters of yellow flowers in spring on evergreen shrubs with prickly leaves. M. repens is a low shrub, and M. aquifolium is tall.
Prairie Smoke	<i>Geum triflorum</i>	Perennial	Western and midwestern states and most of Canada	Low growing perennial with bright green divided leaves, pink flowers and showy seed heads. Shade tolerant. Will go dormant if it gets too dry, but will recover.
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Perennial	Throughout the East, southern, Midwest & CO	Butterflies and bees love it. Pink flowers with orange, spiky centers. Birds love the seeds.
Purple Sage	<i>Salvia dorrii</i>	Low shrub	WA, OR, ID, CA, NV, UT, AZ	Deep purple flowers in early summer on a grey-green shrub. Evergreen. Extremely drought tolerant.
Red-flowering Currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	Tall shrub	WA, OR, ID, CA, BC	Grape-like clusters of hot pink flowers in spring. Easy to establish with sufficient water. Look for east side seed or plant source.
Red-Osier Dogwood, Red Twig Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Tall shrub	All of Canada and the US, except the southeastern states.	Common in the nursery trade and along streams and lakes, this large shrub has clusters of white flowers in spring, white to pale blue berries, good fall color and showy red stems. Smaller cultivars are available.

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Sagebrush Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus glaberrimus</i>	Perennial	All western and midwestern states & Canadian provinces	This tiny plant is one of the first to bloom in spring, with cheery yellow flowers. It is quite uncommon in the nursery trade, as its seeds are difficult to collect.
Scarlet Gilia	<i>Gilia aggregata</i>	Biannual	Most of the West & BC. Not in OR.	Scarlet tubular flowers in summer are loved by hummingbirds. Biennial. Must plant 2 years running to establish population for reseeding. First year plant is a starry rosette. Second year blooms, seeds and dies.
Sedum 'Autumn Joy'	<i>Sedum 'Autumn Joy'</i>	Perennial	Introduced	Flat clusters of pink flowers in late summer are loved by bees. Pale green succulent plant is about a foot tall.
Sedum species	<i>Sedum sp.</i>	Perennial	Most European, few North American	Many forms & cultivars: creeping or tall. Flower colors pinks, reds and whites, occasionally yellow. Bees love these flowers.
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Tall shrub	Western and midwestern states (except AZ) and most of Canada	Edible fruit was used in pemmican and is one of the most important food sources for native birds in the early summer. The first regional native shrub to flower white in the spring. Common in open woods and on north facing slopes in the sagebrush.
Showy Milkweed	<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	Perennial	US except the eastern states. Much of SW Canada.	Tall perennial with large clusters of fragrant pink flowers that are a favorite of many different pollinators. Prefers some spring moisture. Spreads slowly by underground runners so should be carefully placed.
Shrubby Penstemon	<i>Penstemon fruticosus</i>	Low shrub	WA, OR, ID, MT, WY	Evergreen shrub makes a low groundcover, about one foot tall. Numerous purple flowers in spring. Bumblebees and honeybees love it. Local, hardy, tough and drought adapted so little watering is needed.
Slender Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum microthecum</i>	Low shrub	Throughout the West	Heavy seeder. Outstanding pollinator plant for a dry site in late summer.
Smooth Blue Aster, Geyer's Aster	<i>Aster laevis</i>	Perennial	Continental North America	Late summer to fall blooming aster with pale blue-purple flowers. Several varieties throughout the country - ours is Geyer's Aster.
Sticky Purple Geranium	<i>Geranium viscosissimum</i>	Perennial	all western and midwestern states (except AZ) & Canadian provinces	Pink single geraniums - very showy flowers and plants. Has a sticky, tarry resin that makes it unpleasant to handle.
Subalpine Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum var. majus</i>	Ground cover shrub	WA, ID, MT, UT, CO	Semi evergreen creeping shrub with creamy white flowers- from open, rocky, upper mountain slopes.
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus sp.</i>	Annual	North America	Many species of sunflower are native to the US. Flowers attractive to bees and seeds used by birds.

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Three-leaf Sumac	<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	Medium - tall shrub	Throughout the West & Midwest, Alberta & Saskatchewan	Deer proof and drought adapted. Great bee plant. Outstanding fall color.
Venus penstemon, Beautiful penstemon, Blue Mt. penstemon	<i>Penstemon venustus</i>	Perennial	WA, OR, ID, CA, UT	This penstemon is a great companion for Mockorange, as they bloom at the same time. Large purple flowers on a shiny, deep green plant. Very showy and easy to grow. Cut back in spring when you can see the new live buds.
Wax Currant	<i>Ribes cereum</i>	Medium shrub	Throughout the West, western Midwest & SW Canada	Early spring blooming shrub with white to pink flowers followed by showy scarlet berries. Very drought adapted, growing in the sagebrush and in open forests.
Western White Clematis	<i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i>	Tall vine	Throughout the West, western Midwest & SW Canada	Rampant vine grows up to 20 ft. Great to cover a chain link fence. Quite drought adapted. White flowers loved by bees.
Wild Coralbells, Roundleaf Alumroot	<i>Heuchera cylindrica</i>	Perennial	WA, OR, ID, MT, WY, CA, NV, BC	Widely adapted small, low perennial: sun, shade, wet, dry. First to green up in spring. White flowers in early summer.
Wooly Daisy, Oregon Sunshine	<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>	Perennial	WA, OR, ID, CA, MT, WY, UT, NV, BC	Low perennial with grayish foliage and lots of yellow daisies. Butterfly favorite.