



Presented by: Maria Weber from McKay Nursery Company  
**OUR SECRETS TO CREATE THE PERFECT POLLINATOR GARDEN**  
Plant List

\* = Of special importance

<sup>N</sup> = Native

## Trees

### Spring

- Maple
  - Red<sup>\*N</sup>: red maple is one of the first trees to produce flowers and its pollen is an important food for emerging insects; flowers will not be covered by a late spring snow.
  - Silver<sup>N</sup>
  - Sugar<sup>N</sup>
- Oak<sup>\*N</sup>: 534 butterfly/moth species supported; wind pollinated.
- Willow<sup>N</sup>: 455 butterfly/moth species supported.

### Summer

- Linden<sup>\*N</sup>: the favorite tree of the great American author, poet, philosopher and naturalist, Henry David Thoreau; such a prolific nectar source that it's sometimes called the "bee-tree".

## Small Trees/Shrubs

### Spring

- Amelanchier/Serviceberry<sup>\*N</sup>: shallow flowers for short-tongued bees such as sweat or mining bees.
- Blueberry<sup>\*N</sup>: nectar provides food for bees and the mid-April emerging spring azure butterfly in addition to other pollinators; 288 butterfly/moth species supported.
- Catalpa: both flowers and extrafloral nectaries (nectar-producing glands physically apart from the flower) provide nectar.
- Crabapple: 311 butterfly/moth species supported.
- Currants/gooseberry<sup>\*N</sup>: fun to watch come alive with buzzing in the early evening; of special interest to hummingbirds.
- Eastern redbuds: favored by Mason bees (*Osmia spp.*).
- Hackberry<sup>N</sup>: Tawny Emperor and Hackberry Emperor butterflies are found in association with the hackberry.
- Hawthorn<sup>N</sup>: a good source of nectar in some seasons but not in others; good years are associated with fine, still, and humid weather.
- Hazels: early catkins are a valuable source of pollen.
- Kentucky coffeetree: there are very few insects and diseases that affect this tree and it is not visited by Japanese beetle.



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- Magnolia: beetles of the *Nitidulidae* family are the primary pollinators of magnolia flowers, in part because magnolias evolved long before bees and other flying pollinators.
- Mock-orange/Philadelphus: strong nighttime fragrance attracts nocturnal moths and butterflies.
- Plums/cherries<sup>N</sup>: good nectar producers; wild plum (*P. Americana*)<sup>N</sup>, pin cherry (*P. pensylvanica*)<sup>N</sup>, and chokecherry (*P. virginiana*)<sup>N</sup> are native.
- Pussy willow<sup>\*N</sup>: blooms before spring ephemerals; larval host for wide range of butterflies and moths.
- Rhododendron/Azalea: produces nectar toxins that discourage non-efficient pollinators; ceases production of toxin when too few preferred species are present to ensure pollinator success.
- Weigela: Rumba, Carnaval, Minuet, and Wine and Roses varieties especially attract hummingbirds.

#### Spring-Summer

- Lilac: brilliant purple and blue petals attract numerous bee species; long-tongued bees such as the bumble bee can access the nectar.
- Ninebark<sup>N</sup>: valuable nectar source for many pollinators, including native bees.
- Sumac<sup>\*N</sup>: soft-centered stems where bees can make their nests.

#### Summer

- Dwarf bush honeysuckle<sup>N</sup>: Diervilla 'Butterflies' has an extended bloom period.
- Hydrangea<sup>\*</sup>: Arborescens<sup>\*</sup> and PeeGee (Silver Dollar Hydrangea)<sup>\*</sup> types produce pollen and nectar.
- Potentilla: flowers primarily attract small bees and flies, including Mason bees and Small Carpenter bees.
- Roses<sup>\*</sup>: open flowers attract pollinators; prune for re-blooming into fall.
  - Nearly wild<sup>\*N</sup>
  - Open-flower varieties: R. rugosa, Sunny Knock Out, Blanc Double de Coubert, etc...

#### Fall

- Witch hazel<sup>\*N</sup>: the bees last forage; flowers will not be covered by an early winter snow.

#### Perennials

Spring: plant under a tree/shrub for blooms occurring before leaf-out

- Bluestar<sup>N</sup>: important larval butterfly food source.
- Nodding onion<sup>N</sup>: mainly attracts bees; nodding habit may protect the nectar from rain.
- Pachysandra<sup>\*N</sup>: early blooming shade plant.
- Phlox: bright blossoms are especially attractive to butterflies; pale-colored or white blossoms attract nighttime pollinators such as moths.



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### Summer

- Beebalm\*<sup>N</sup>: attracts a number of specialist bees (especially the small black sweat bee), bumble bees, predatory wasps, hummingbirds, and hawk moths; attracts sand wasps, voracious predators of the brown marmorated stinkbug.
- Blazingstar\*<sup>N</sup>: pollinator magnets; *Liatris* species are host plants for the flower moths *Schinia gloriosa* and *Schinia sanguinea*.
- Catmint: the first heavy flush of blooms can be cut back to promote re-blooming in the late summer.
- Coneflower\*<sup>N</sup>: a top nectar source.
- Lobelia/Cardinal Flower: Cardinal Flower is a prolific nectar source for hummingbirds; it was one of the National Audubon Society's 2016 Bird-Friendly Native Plants of the Year.
- Milkweed/Butterfly Weed\*<sup>N</sup>: sole host plant for the Monarch caterpillar; nectar source for many pollinators. Monarchs will often only lay one egg per plant, so plant several.
- Rudbeckia\*<sup>N</sup>: *R. laciniata*\*<sup>N</sup> especially popular with pollinators; UV nectar guides and tall height attract bees while goldfinches enjoy the seeds.
- Yarrow<sup>N</sup>: attracts native bees and flower beetles.

### Fall

- Aromatic/New England Aster\*<sup>N</sup>: butterfly magnet/caterpillar food source and important food resource for pre-hibernation bumble bee queens.
- Goldenrod\*<sup>N</sup>: bees love it; 115 butterfly/moth species supported.
- Sedum\*<sup>N</sup>: very late bloomer providing an important food resource for pre-hibernation bumble bee queens.

### Other

- Dill: food source of black swallowtail caterpillars
- Fennel: food source of black swallowtail caterpillars
- Little Bluestem\*<sup>N</sup>: serves as a larval host for 9 skipper species and female bumble bee queens nest at the base of bunch grasses where they will be protected until they emerge in the spring; also: bigstem, fescues, needlegrass, and purple top.
- Parsley: important food source of black swallowtail caterpillars