

Lukas Nursery's Best Picks for Pollinators

Bees and other insects are essential to grow one third of our world's food supply!



1. **Plant a wide variety of flowering plants.** In general, bees prefer blue or yellow flowers with sweet fragrances, moths visit white flowers (visible at night) with strong scents, butterflies enjoy bright colors with large flower heads for easy landing, and hummingbirds are attracted primarily to red and orange flowers with long tubes. Choose plants that flower at different times of the year, with differing flower shapes and colors, and plant in large clumps (3ft x 3ft of each species is recommended).
2. **Provide nesting habitat for pollinators.** A whopping 70% of our bees that provide pollination dwell in the soil. Leave a small inconspicuous area of your yard bare or even add sand to an open patch. For the remaining 30%, build bee nesting blocks and use fallen twigs to create a natural brush pile habitat.
3. **Rethink pesticide, herbicide and fungicide use** around your home. Accept some insect activity and minor leaf damage as a natural part of a healthy garden. When allowed to establish natural populations, beneficial and predatory insects will increase your garden harvest and greatly reduce the numbers of pest insects. When a pesticide must be used, target the specific pest with the least toxic and least persistent formula available.
IMPORTANT: when using pesticide, herbicide and fungicide, apply only in the evening when most pollinators are not foraging and **ALWAYS** avoid flower blooms.

Flowers:

African Blue Basil - Ocimum spp.
Blanket Flower - Gaillardia spp.
False Heather - Cuphea spp.
Milkweed - Asclepias spp
Pentas - Pentas lanceolate
Salvia - Blue, Red, or Purple Salvia spp.
Sunflower - Helianthus & Tithonia
Porterweed - Stachytarpheta spp.

Shrubs & Vines:

Powderpuff, Dwarf - Call. haemotocepha
Sweet Almond Bush - Aloysia virgata
Wild Coffee - Psychotria nervosa
Firebush - Hamelia patens
Passion Vine - Passiflora spp.
Coral Honeysuckle - Lonicera sempervirens
Crossvine - Bignonia capreolata
*** A Wonderful Weed = Spanish Needles ***