

# Bee-Friendly Landscaping in Vermont



Many bees are considered specialists—meaning they only visit a small number of plant species for all their food needs. These species in particular can benefit from small backyard plantings of their favorite foods. Generalists (and other organisms) will also benefit from an increased diversity of native plants, especially if flowers are available through the entire growing season. Most of the species on this list are visited by specialist bees that occur in Vermont and could visit your yard if their food is there.

## Guidelines

### MOW A SMALLER AREA

Every little bit helps!

### PLANT NATIVE SPECIES

Or encourage those already growing in the area

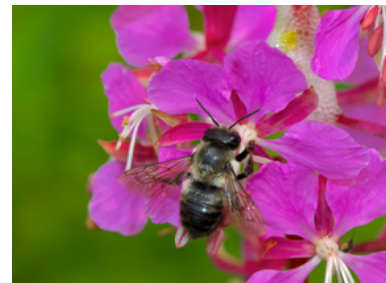
### AVOID USING PESTICIDES

Or buying treated nursery plants (see disclaimer)

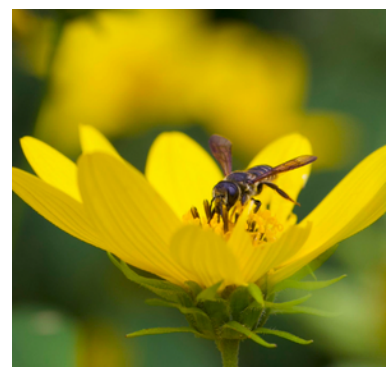
### LEAVE THE LEAVES

Leaf litter and dead plant stalks are important nesting and overwintering habitat for many insects (including bees)

### AIM TO HAVE NATIVE PLANTS BLOOMING ALL SEASON



Small-handed Leaf-cutter Bee on Fireweed



Leafcutter on a Sunflower



Small Carpenter Bee

## Plant Sources

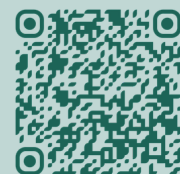
A list of local sources for native plants:



## Disclaimer

- **Many of the genera (plant groups) listed on this card contain non-native species.** Avoid planting non-native, and particularly invasive species, whenever possible.
- **Plant local genotypes whenever possible, especially for rare plants.** Plants with a variety name ie. *Crataegus viridis* 'Winter King' are cultivars that may not have the same characteristics and conservation value as the wild species.
- **Many nurseries treat plants with systemic pesticides,** including neonicotinoids, which can be highly toxic to bees. Ask about pesticide use before buying.

For more information



# Bee Friendly Plant List



Easy choice  
Supports a specialist bee  
Deer resistant



Provides habitat for cavity-nesting bees  
Genus contains non-native species

## Trees

## Bloom Period

<b>Red Maple</b> ( <i>Acer rubrum</i> ) — adaptable	<b>APR</b>
<b>Black Willow</b> ( <i>Salix nigra</i> )   — damp soil	<b>MAY</b>
<b>Basswood</b> ( <i>Tilia americana</i> )	<b>EARLY JULY</b>
<b>American Chestnut</b> ( <i>Castanea dentata</i> )  — drier sites	<b>EARLY JULY</b>

## Shrubs

<b>Willows</b> ( <i>Salix sp.</i> )     — damp soils	<b>APR + MAY</b>
<b>Serviceberries</b> ( <i>Amelanchier sp.</i> )   — birds love the fruit	<b>MAY</b>
<b>Currants</b> ( <i>Ribes sp.</i> )  — shade tolerant	<b>MAY</b>
<b>Blueberries</b> ( <i>Vaccinium sp.</i> )	<b>MAY + JUN</b>
<b>Early Azalea</b> ( <i>Rhododendron prinophyllum</i> )  — shade tolerant, local in VT	<b>MAY + JUN</b>
<b>Dogwoods</b> ( <i>Cornus</i> — * <i>Swida group</i> *) *Doesn't include Flowering Dogwood (C. Florida)	<b>MAY + JUN</b>
<b>Chokecherry</b> ( <i>Prunus virginiana</i> )	<b>MAY</b>
<b>Hawthorns</b> ( <i>Crataegus sp.</i> )	<b>MAY + JUN</b>
<b>Sumac</b> ( <i>Rhus sp.</i> )   — Flowering dates and associated bees are species specific	<b>VARIES</b>
<b>Winterberry Holly</b> ( <i>Ilex verticillata</i> )   — specialist bee likely needs sand	<b>JUN + JUL</b>
<b>New Jersey Tea</b> ( <i>Ceanothus americanus</i> )   — dry woods	<b>JUN + JUL</b>
<b>Sheep Laurel</b> ( <i>Kalmia angustifolia</i> )  — bogs and dry, rocky sites	<b>JUN + JUL</b>
<b>He-Huckleberry</b> ( <i>Lyonia ligustrina</i> )  — shade tolerant, local in VT	<b>JUN</b>
<b>Spiraea</b> ( <i>Spiraea alba</i> and <i>S. tomentosa</i> )	<b>JUL + AUG</b>

# Herbaceous Plants

<b>Spring Beauties</b> ( <i>Claytonia sp.</i> ) 🐝 — shade tolerant	<b>APR+ MAY</b>
<b>Trout Lily</b> ( <i>Erythronium americanum</i> ) 🐝 — shade tolerant	<b>APR + MAY</b>
<b>Strawberries</b> ( <i>Fragaria sp.</i> ) 🐝 ⚠️ — tasty!	<b>MAY</b>
<b>Virginia Waterleaf</b> ( <i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i> ) 🐝 — rich soils, shade tolerant	<b>JUN</b>
<b>Violets</b> ( <i>Viola sp.</i> ) 🐝 ⚠️ — specialist bee only known from Windsor County	<b>MAY</b>
<b>Wild Geranium</b> ( <i>Geranium maculatum</i> ) 🐝 — shade tolerant	<b>MAY + JUN</b>
<b>Golden Alexander</b> ( <i>Zizia aurea</i> ) 🐝 🏆 — wet meadows	<b>JUN</b>
<b>Loosestrifes</b> ( <i>Lysimachia quadrifolia + L. terrestris</i> ) 🐝 🏆 ⚠️ — damp soil, shade tolerant	<b>JUN + JUL</b>
<b>Dogbane</b> ( <i>Apocynum sp.</i> ) 🦌 — *Poisonous to dogs and some livestock*	<b>JUN + JUL</b>
<b>Clammy Ground Cherry</b> ( <i>Physalis heterophylla</i> ) 🐝 ⚠️ — sandy soils	<b>JUL + SEPT</b>
<b>Evening Primroses</b> ( <i>Oenothera sp.</i> ) 🐝 🐣 ⚠️	<b>JUN - SEPT</b>
<b>Fireweed</b> ( <i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i> ) — disturbed sites	<b>JUL + AUG</b>
<b>Pickerelweed</b> ( <i>Pontederia cordata</i> ) 🐝 — shallow wetlands	<b>JUL + AUG</b>
<b>Water lilies</b> ( <i>Nymphaeaceae sp.</i> ) 🐝 — shallow wetlands	<b>JUN - AUG</b>
<b>Wild Bergamot</b> ( <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> ) 🐝 🏆 🐣 — easy to grow	<b>JUL + AUG</b>
<b>Vervain</b> ( <i>Verbena sp.</i> ) 🏆 ⚠️ 🦌 — moist soils	<b>JUL + AUG</b>
<b>Sunflowers</b> ( <i>Helianthus sp.</i> ) 🐝 ⚠️ 🐣 — native perennial species preferred	<b>JUL + AUG</b>
<b>Fen Grass of Parnassus</b> ( <i>Parnassia glauca</i> ) 🐝 — Fens and rich shorelines	<b>AUG + SEPT</b>
<b>Thistles</b> ( <i>Cirsium sp.</i> ) 🐝 ⚠️ 🐣 🦌 *Most common species are non-native*	<b>JUL + AUG</b>
<b>Goldenrods</b> ( <i>Solidago sp.</i> ) 🐝 🏆 🐣 🦌 — Common	<b>JUL - SEPT</b>
<b>Asters</b> ( <i>Symphyotrichum sp.</i> ) 🐝 🏆 — Common	<b>AUG - OCT</b>
<b>Bur Marigolds</b> ( <i>Bidens sp.</i> ) 🐣 — damp soil	<b>SEPT</b>

Learn more: <https://val.vtecostudies.org/projects/vtbees/specialists/>  
 Questions? Email Spencer Hardy [shardy@vtecostudies.org](mailto:shardy@vtecostudies.org)