

Plants for bees and pollinators...

A couple of fun/interesting web sites to look at...

<http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/plants-pollinators09.pdf>

[http://gardening.about.com/od/attractingwildlife/a/Bee\\_Plants.htm](http://gardening.about.com/od/attractingwildlife/a/Bee_Plants.htm)

***Plants that have good nectar output.*** See the chart on this link...

<http://keepingbee.org/plants-for-bees/>

Sainfoin... <http://www.welterseed.com/ProductDetails.aspx?id=527>

Buckwheat, Great for both nectar and as a soil amenity.

Clovers, Dutch White, Yellow Sweet, White Sweet, Crimson Red

- Be careful where you plant as clovers will reseed themselves

Herbaceous Plants / Flowers, (both annuals and perennials)

- Lavender, I like Gros Bleu the best, but all are great.
- Salvia's / Sages, Coral Nymph, May Night, Caradonna
- Hyssop's (anise is the most popular)
- Mint's
- Oregano, both culinary & ornamental
- Thyme, It is a great ground cover that bees love
- Borage, <http://www.motheearthnews.com/organic-gardening/growing-borage-zmaz06amzraw.aspx>
- <http://davesbees.com/blog/2012/11/26/borage-for-bees/>
- Russian Sage

Fruit Tree's

Linden Trees provide high quality nectar and in many places is a major honey plant, providing ample harvest... <http://romancingthebee.com/2013/02/07/trees-for-bees-the-linden-tree/>

***Seed sources for organic / heirloom seed***

Johnny's

Fedco

Southern Exposure Seed

Seeds of Change

Rareseeds.com

Territorial Seed Company

# Tips for planting a pollinator garden

When planting a pollinator garden, keep in mind that pollinators need food during the entire growing season. Although some species live only a few weeks, different species become active at different times of the year. In other words, something must be in flower at all times throughout the spring, summer, and fall if you want to have a varied and continuous supply of visitors. Here are some tips for a successful pollinator garden.

- The wider the variety of flowers you plant, the wider the variety of pollinators you will attract. Different pollinators are attracted to different plant features, so give them plenty of options.
- Choose flowers of different colors. Bees are particularly fond of blue, purple, violet, white, and yellow. Hummingbirds, on the other hand, like the reds.
- Flowers planted in clumps of like-kind tend to attract more pollinators than scattered mixtures.
- Plant flowers of different shapes. Pollinators have an amazing variety of tongue lengths, mouth sizes, body sizes, and taste preferences. Flowers of various geometries attract a wider selection of pollinators.
- Highly selected hybrids often have less nectar than heirloom varieties. Stick with heirlooms or native varieties, when possible.
- Plants in the sun attract more pollinators than plants in the shade.
- Sheltered plants are more favored than plants that thrash in the wind.
- Have a source of mud readily available. Certain bees, such as mason bees, use it for sealing their nests.
- Skip the pesticides, they are NOT good for pollinator or humans.

## Borage plant **Overview:**

Borage is a freely seeded, easy growing annual plant with vivid blue flowers and leaves with the flavor of cucumbers. It is considered an herb, but is often grown as a [flower in vegetable gardens](#) where it attracts pollinating bees and is considered a good companion plant for tomatoes, squash and [strawberries](#). It's even supposed to deter [tomato hornworms](#) and improve the flavor of tomatoes growing nearby.