

HONEY BEE PLANTS

of Central and North Texas



Becky Bender
www.BudsandtheBees.com

SPRING

Flowers: Dandelion (I & A), Indian Blanket (N), Horsemint and Beebalm (N), Pincushion/Scabiosa (I), Verbena (N), Datura (N), Cosmos, (A), Mexican Heather (A), Borage (A), Clovers (A & I), Vetches (A & I)

Shrubs, Herbs, Vines: Rose of Sharon (A), Hollies (N&A), Indian Hawthorne (A), Sumacs (N), Catmint -variety Walker's Low (A), Abelia (A), Ligustrum/Privet (I), Rattan Vine (N), Carolina Buckthorn (N), Agarita (N), Lavender (A), Elbowbush (N), Prickly Pear Cactus (N)

Trees: Eastern/Texas Redbud (N), Blackhaw Viburnum (N), Rough-leaf Dogwood (N), Mesquite (N), Mimosa (I), Desert Willow (N), Black Willows (N), Prickly Ash (N), Texas/Common Persimmon (N), Mexican Plum/native plum thickets (N), Chinaberry (I)

SUMMER

Flowers: Indian Blanket (N), Coneflowers (N), African Blue Sage (A), Horsemints and Beebalm (N), Maypop/Passionflower (N), Purple Prairie Clover (N), Milkweeds

Shrubs, Herbs, Vines: Flame Acanthus (N), Catmint (A), Buttonbush (wetlands) (N), Onion and garlic chives (A), Rosemary (A), Lavender, Mints, Privet/Ligustrum (I), Kidneywood (N), Paloverde/Parkinsonia (N), Beebrush (N), Huisache/Acacias (N), Clematis (N), Rose of Sharon/ Hibiscus (A), Texas Sage/Cenizo (N), Abelia (A), Dewberry groundcover (N)

Trees: Desert Willow (N), Crepe Myrtle (A), Golden Rain Tree (I), Magnolia (N), Basswood (N), Vitex/ Lilac Chaste (I), Prickly Ash (N), Soapberry (N)

FALL—WINTER

Flowers: Blue Fall Asters (N), White Mist Flower (N), Goldenrod (N), Mexican Mint Merigold, (A), Sunflowers (N), Frostweed (N), Broomweed (N), Snow-on-the-Prairie (N), Mexican Heather (A)

Shrubs, Herbs, Vines: Almond Verbena (A), Texas Sage/Cenizo (N), Mexican Bush Sage (N), Winter Honeysuckle—avoid invasive varieties (A), Elaeagnus or Silverberry (I), Flowering Quince (A), Rosemary, (A) Basil (A) Flame Acanthus (N), Turk's Cap (N), Datura (N)

Trees: Cedar Elms (pollen) (N), Loquat (A), Desert Willow (N)

KEY: N = Native to Texas; A = Adapted to Texas
I = Invasive in Texas - not recommended

TIPS ON PLANTING FOR HONEY BEES

1. Before clearing “brush” from property, identify valuable bee habitat and conserve it.
2. Plant in mass—at least 3 square feet of each type of flower.
3. Plant a variety of bee plants. Diverse pollens nourish bees.
4. Plant native and adapted plants; they produce more nectar and have fewer pests.
5. Control invasive plants— they spread quickly, causing a loss of plant diversity.
6. Plant for blooms in all seasons to provide nectar and pollen year-round.
7. Avoid toxic pesticides and herbicides.
8. Establish a “no-mow” or “wildscaped” section of land for wildflowers and “good weeds”. Easy locations are fence lines, edge of a crop field or back of a yard.
9. If you have a pond, stream or wetland, provide bee habitat here too.
10. Planting a few new bee plants every year will add up and benefit your bees.

PLANT AND SEED SOURCES

Shades of Green Nursery in Frisco, TX

Rhode’s Nursery in Garland, TX

Wichita Valley Nursery and Landscape in Wichita Falls, TX

Womack Nursery in De Leon, TX :

Good source for mail order fruit trees; native wild plum thickets.

Wildseed Farm and Nursery in Fredericksburg, TX :

Good source for wildflower seeds.

Native American Seed in Junction, TX:

Mostly mail order. The catalog is worth ordering just to learn about native Texas plants and land restoration. Good variety of wildflower seeds, pollinator seed mixes and native grasses - all targeted to different eco-regions of Texas.

Becky Bender

DrBWildflowerHoney@gmail.com

www.BudsandtheBees.com