

HONEY BEE PLANTS

for Central and North Texas



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SPRING

Flowers: Dandelion (I & A), Indian Blanket (N), Horsemint and Beebalms (N), Pincushion/Scabiosa (I), Verbena (N), Datura (N), Cosmos,(A), Mexican Heather (A), Borage (A), Clovers (A & I), Vetches (A & I), Roses—some varieties (A&N), Buttercup Family of yellow flowers (N&I)

Shrubs, Herbs, Vines: Rose of Sharon (A), Hollies (N&A), Indian Hawthorne (A), Sumacs (N), Catmint (Walker's Low), Abelia (A), Ligustrum/Privet (I), Rattan Vine (N), Buckthorns (N), Agarita (N), Lavender (A), Elbowbush (N), Prickly Pear Cactus (N), Crossvine (N), Guajillo (N), Poison Ivy and Sumacs (N), Virginia Creeper (N)

Trees: Eastern/Texas Redbud (N), Blackhaw Viburnum (N), Dogwood (N), Mesquite (N), Mimosa (I), Black Willows (N), Ash—pollen (N), Texas/Common Persimmon (N), Mexican Plum/native plum thickets (N), Chinaberry (I), Oaks, Maples, Ash (pollen), Chinese Tallow (I), Tupelo/Blackgum (N), Honey Locust (N)

SUMMER

Flowers: Indian Blanket (N), Coneflowers (N), African Blue Sage (A), Horsemints and Beebalms (N), Maypop/Passionflower (N), Purple Prairie Clover (N), Milkweeds, Anise hyssop (N), Roses—some varieties (A&N), Buttercups (N&I)

Shrubs, Herbs, Vines: Flame Acanthus (N), Catmint (A), Buttonbush (wetlands) (N), Rosemary (A), Lavender, Mint, Basil, Chives (A), Privet/Ligustrum (I), Kidneywood (N), Paloverde/Parkinsonia (N), Beebrush/Whitebrush (N), Huisache/Acacias (N), Clematis (N), Rose of Sharon/ Hibiscus (A), Texas Sage/Cenizo (N), Abelia (A), Blackberry/Dewberry (A&N)

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

FALL—WINTER

Flowers: 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 (A) — avoid Japanese and invasive varieties, Elaeagnus or Silverberry (I), Flowering Quince (A), Rosemary, (A) Basil (A) Flame Acanthus (N), Turk's Cap (N), Datura (N)

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

10 TIPS ON PLANTING FOR HONEY BEES

1. Before clearing “brush” from property, identify valuable bee habitat and conserve it.
2. Plant in mass—about 3 square feet or more of each type of flower.
3. Plant a variety of bee plants: it ensures bee nutrition and blooms in all weather.
4. Choose 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”. Good locations are fence lines, edge of a crop field or back of a yard.
9. Use wetlands (like streams) and part-shade areas (under trees) for bee habitat 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

Wildflower Farm and Nursery in Fredericksburg, TX

Native Plant Sales at public gardens such as Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin and Texas Discovery Gardens, Dallas.

For nurseries and plant sales that specialize in native and pollinator plants, go to Native Plant Society of Texas www.NPSOT.org to find a chapter and events near you.

Womack Nursery in De Leon, TX :

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

Wildflower Seeds and more:

Native American Seed in Junction, TX: www.seedsource.com. Mostly mail order. The catalog is worth ordering just to learn about native Texas plants and land restoration in different eco-regions of Texas. Partnered with Texas Beekeeping Association in 2014 to create Bee Happy Seed Mix, available in quantity.

Texas Beekeeping Association: www.texasbeekeepers.org. Click on Shop.

When you order Seed Mix here, TBA benefits from sales.

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