



Michigan pollinators

Pollinators, vital to our environment, are responsible for pollinating over 85% of flowering plants and a large portion of our food crops. They encompass bees, butterflies, moths, flies, birds, bats and beetles. Even the wind pollinates many of our plants! This care sheet will focus on attracting Michigan's native bees. For ways to attract butterflies & hummingbirds, please refer to our butterfly & hummingbird care sheet.

Michigan boasts over 450 native bee species, crucial for natural & agricultural landscapes. These bees forage for carbohydrates & protein in nectar & pollen to thrive and reproduce. They're drawn to bright white, yellow, blue or purple flowers & are guided by patterns & colors unseen by human eyes.

To attract these buzzing friends, follow these tips:

- Plant in groups to boost pollinator efficiency and to allow them to move through the landscape safely.
- Cultivate a variety of plants with staggered bloom times for continuous nectar sources.
- Diversify plant species to appeal to various pollinators.
- Consider retaining some weeds, as many are attractive to pollinators.
- Offer protection from harsh weather and provide nesting opportunities; bee boxes are excellent for this purpose!
- Reserve patches of bare soil for ground bees.
- Ensure a reliable water source with sloped or shallow edges for easy access and to prevent drowning.
- Minimize pesticide use; if absolutely necessary, apply after dusk when bees are inactive and avoid flowering plants. Do not use systemic pesticides.

ANNUALS

Ageratum ☀
Alyssum ☀
Cleome ☀
Cosmos ☀
Dahlia (single flower) ☀
Heliotrope ☀
Lantana ☀
Chrysanthemum (single flower) ☀
Pentas ☀
Salvia ☀
Snapdragon ☀
Sunflower ☀
Verbena ☀
Zinnia (single flower) ☀

FRUITS

Aronia ☀☀
Blackberry ☀
Blueberry ☀
Elderberry ☀
Raspberry ☀
Almond ☀
Apple ☀
Apricot ☀
Cherry ☀
Nectarine ☀
Peach ☀
Pear ☀
Plum ☀

HERBS

Basil ☀
Chives ☀
Lavender ☀
Mint ☀
Oregano ☀
Rosemary ☀
Thyme ☀

VEGETABLES

Cucumber ☀
Melon ☀
Peppers ☀
Pumpkin ☀
Squash ☀
Tomatoes ☀

☀ **SUN** – These plants need at least 8 hours of direct sunlight.

☀☀ **PARTIAL SHADE** – These plants need a minimum of 4 hours of direct sunlight and maximum of 8 hours. Avoid hot afternoon sunlight.

☀☀☀ **SHADE** – These plants need less than 4 hours of direct sunlight. Avoid hot afternoon sunlight.

☀☀☀☀ **SUN-SHADE** – These plants can be grown in any light situation.

TREES

Amelanchier ☀️🌳
Blackgum ☀️🌳
Birch ☀️
Catalpa ☀️
Cherry, Flowering ☀️
Crab, Flowering ☀️
Dogwood ☀️🌳
Heptacodium ☀️🌳
Linden ☀️
Maple, Red ☀️
Oak ☀️
Peach, Flowering ☀️
Plum, Flowering ☀️
Redbud ☀️🌳
Tuliptree ☀️
Willow ☀️

SHRUBS

Althea ☀️🌳
Aronia ☀️🌳
Bluebeard ☀️
Butterfly Bush ☀️
Clethra ☀️🌳
Cotoneaster ☀️🌳
Elder ☀️🌳
Fothergilla ☀️🌳
Mockorange ☀️🌳
Ninebark ☀️
Plum, Cistena ☀️
Potentilla ☀️
Privet ☀️🌳
Spirea ☀️
Viburnum ☀️🌳

PERENNIALS

Spring Blooming:

Ajuga ☀️🌳
Candytuft ☀️🌳
Dianthus, Sweet William ☀️
Jacobs Ladder ☀️🌳
Pachysandra 🌳☀️
Peony ☀️🌳
Poppy ☀️
Purple Poppy Mallow ☀️
Solomon's Seal 🌳☀️

PERENNIALS

Summer Blooming:

Agastache ☀️
Allium ☀️🌳
Astilbe 🌳
Bachelors Button ☀️
Baptisia ☀️🌳
Bee Balm ☀️🌳
Bellflower ☀️🌳
Betony ☀️🌳
Calamint ☀️🌳
Catmint ☀️🌳
Coneflower ☀️
Coral Bells ☀️🌳☀️
Coreopsis ☀️
Daisy, Shasta ☀️
Foxglove ☀️🌳
Gaillardia ☀️
Geranium ☀️🌳
Hibiscus ☀️
Hollyhock ☀️
Hosta 🌳☀️
Ice Plant ☀️
Lavender ☀️
Liatris ☀️🌳

PERENNIALS

Summer Blooming (Con't):

Ligularia 🌿
Lupine ☀️🌿
Milkweed ☀️
Penstemon ☀️🌿
Phlox, Garden ☀️🌿
Pincushion Flower ☀️🌿
Russian Sage ☀️
Salvia ☀️
Sea Holly ☀️
Spiderwort 🌿☀️
Stoke's Aster ☀️🌿
Veronica ☀️🌿
Yarrow ☀️

PERENNIALS

Fall Blooming:

Anemone ☀️🌿
Aster ☀️
Cimicifuga ☀️🌿
Goldenrod ☀️
Joe Pye ☀️🌿
Rudbeckia ☀️🌿
Sedum ☀️
Sunflower ☀️
Toad Lily 🌿☀️

VINES

Clematis ☀️🌿
Ivy, Virginia Creeper ☀️🌿☀️
Trumpet Vine ☀️

Check out our selection of Native Perennials
to attract more pollinators to your garden!

