

Native Plant Seed Mixes for Bees

Garden Mix

Aquilegia canadensis – wild columbine
Asclepias tuberosa – butterfly-weed
Aster shortii – Short's aster
Campanula americana – tall bellflower (biennial)
Coreopsis major – whorled tickseed
Echinacea purpurea – purple coneflower
Helenium flexuosum – purple-headed sneezeweed
Liatris spp. – blazing star
Penstemon digitalis – beard-tongue
Verbena canadensis (*Glandularia canadensis*) – rose verbena

Meadow Mix

Aster novae-angliae – New England aster
Bidens aristosa – tickseed sunflower (annual)
Coreopsis lanceolata – lance-leaved tickseed
Echinacea purpurea – purple coneflower
Eryngium yuccifolium – rattlesnake-master
Eupatorium fistulosum – Joe Pye-weed
Monarda fistulosa – wild bergamot
Ratibida pinnata – prairie coneflower, gray-headed coneflower
Rudbeckia hirta – black-eyed Susan (annual, biennial, short-lived perennial)
Silphium perfoliatum – cup-plant
Solidago rugosa – wrinkle-leaved goldenrod
Vernonia gigantea – ironweed

Summer Mix

Asclepias tuberosa – butterfly-weed
Campanula americana – tall bellflower
Coreopsis major – whorled tickseed
Echinacea purpurea – purple coneflower
Eupatorium fistulosum – Joe Pye-weed
Helenium flexuosum – purple-headed sneezeweed
Liatris spicata – blazing star
Monarda fistulosa or *M. didyma* – wild bergamot or bee balm
Penstemon digitalis – beard-tongue
Pycnanthemum incanum – silverleaf mountain mint
Ratibida pinnata – prairie coneflower, gray-headed coneflower
Rudbeckia spp. – black-eyed Susan
Verbena canadensis (*Glandularia canadensis*) – rose verbena

Fall Mix

Aster spp. – aster
Bidens aristosa – tickseed sunflower (annual)
Solidago spp. – goldenrod
Vernonia gigantea – ironweed

Moist Soil Mix

Aster novae-angliae – New England aster
Bidens aristosa – tickseed sunflower
Campanula americana – tall bellflower (biennial)
Echinacea purpurea – purple coneflower
Eupatorium fistulosum – Joe Pye-weed
Helenium flexuosum – purple-headed sneezeweed
Monarda didyma – bee balm
Silphium perfoliatum – cup-plant

Dry Soil Mix

Asclepias tuberosa – butterfly-weed
Aster oblongifolius – aromatic aster
Coreopsis major – whorled tickseed
Eryngium yuccifolium – rattlesnake-master
Liatris squarrulosa – southern blazing star
Rudbeckia triloba – thin-leaved coneflower
Solidago rugosa – wrinkle-leaved goldenrod
Verbena canadensis (*Glandularia canadensis*) – rose verbena

Shade Mix (two to four hours of sun)

Aquilegia canadensis – wild columbine
Aster cordifolius – blue wood aster
Aster shortii – Short's aster
Campanula americana – tall bellflower (biennial)
Penstemon digitalis – beard-tongue
Phacelia bipinnatifida – purple phacelia
Pycnanthemum incanum – silverleaf mountain mint
Solidago caesia – blue-stemmed goldenrod

Individual packet suggestion: Sell small (10-25 seeds per) packet of a single plant and let buyers mix and match based on their growing conditions and preferences. Under this arrangement, at least two more species (culver's root & cardinal flower) could be added with the additional direction that they need light to germinate and must be sown on top of the soil.

Plant List

Seeds from these plants can be stored dry in a package and will germinate easily following a period of cold stratification. Depending on the amount of control a gardener wishes to exercise, these plants may be grown by either

1. sowing seed in prepared soil in the fall or
2. mixing seed with small amount of moist peat moss in baggie and refrigerating for three months prior to sowing in flats late Feb./early Mar.

Asclepias tuberosa – butterfly-weed

To 2 feet tall. Clustered orange flowers late May to early Aug. Full sun, good soil drainage. Drought tolerant. Self sows.

Aquilegia canadensis – wild columbine

2-3 feet tall in the garden. Red/yellow dangling flowers April to June also attract humminbirds. Part sun, moist to dry, well drained soil. Self sows when established.

Aster spp. – aster

Fall blooming. Full sun. Can self sow. *A. novae-angliae* is tall (4-7'), prefers moist to wet soil. *A. oblongifolius* is bushy to 3' and prefers dry soil. *A. shortii* is 3-5' tall in Oct. (the latest blooming) and prefers moist to dry soil in shade. *A. cordifolius* likes part sun and moist soil.

Bidens aristosa – tickseed sunflower

Annual. Large, showy yellow flowers in September on sturdy plants 3-5 feet tall. Moist to wet soil. Self sows prolifically.

Campanula americana – tall bellflower

Biennial. Tall (4-5') spikes of blue flowers in midsummer. Prefers shade and moist to wet soil. Will self sow.

Coreopsis lanceolata & *C. major* – tickseed

Showy, yellow flowers in summer. Dry soil, full sun. *C. lanceolata* self sows prolifically. *C. major* can take some shade.

Echinacea purpurea – purple coneflower

Dull purple flowers with bright orange cone, 3-5' tall. Well drained moist soil, full sun. Goldfinches love the seed. Self sows.

Eryngium yuccifolium – rattlesnake-master, button snakeroot

Spherical flowerheads in branched clusters 2-4' tall in midsummer with leathery linear foliage. Full sun, moist to dry well-drained soil,

Eupatorium fistulosum – Joe Pye-weed

Large, domed heads of mauve-pink flowers in July on tall (5-9') stems with whorled leaves. Full sun with moist to damp soil.

Helenium flexuosum – purple-headed sneezeweed

Loads of yellow flowers with small, spherical cones in late July and August on winged stems 2-4' tall. Full sun and reliably moist soil. Not drought tolerant.

Liatris spp. – blazing star

Spikes of purple flowers in full sun. *L. spicata* flowers in early summer (2-3'), prefers moist soil. *L. squarrosa* flowers in late summer (3-4') and prefers dry soil.

Monarda spp. – bee balm, wild bergamot

Whorls of flowers in early summer 3-4' tall, full sun. *M. didyma* has red flowers and needs moist soil. *M. fistulosa* has lavender flowers and prefers drier soil. Both can spread rapidly.

Penstemon digitalis – beard-tongue

White to purplish tubular flowers in late spring on 2-3' stalks, full sun to part shade. Moist to dry well-drained soil.

Phacelia bipinnatifida – purple phacelia

Biennial. Recurved coils of rich purple flowers in April with mottled foliage. Moist soil, spring sun – summer shade. Readily self sows.

Pycnanthemum incanum – silverleaf mountain mint

Tight clusters of tiny purple spotted flowers over whitened leaves in midsummer. Two to four feet, part shade, moist to dry soil.

Ratibida pinnata – prairie coneflower, gray-headed coneflower

Large yellow flowers on 3-5' stems in early summer. Moist soil, full sun.

Rudbeckia spp. – black-eyed Susan

R. hirta – Biennial (perhaps annual or short-lived perennial). Yellow flowers in midsummer, 2-3' tall. Full sun, moist soil. *R. triloba* – bushy short-lived perennial 2-5' tall, lots of smaller yellow flowers. Full sun to shade, moist to dry soil. Shade and drought tolerant.

Silphium perfoliatum – cup-plant

Tall (5-7') stout stems, paired leaves, and branched sprays of large yellow flowers in mid- to late summer. Moist soil, full sun.

Solidago spp. – goldenrod

S. rugosa – spreading plant (2-4') with arching branches of small yellow flowers in fall. Full sun, moist to dry soil. *S. caesia* – clumping, vase-shaped plant to 3' tall flower in fall. Prefers shade and moist to dry soil.

Verbena canadensis (*Glandularia canadensis*) – rose verbena

Low growing, trailing stems with bright pink flowers in mid-spring to early summer. Dry, lean soil in full sun.

Vernonia gigantea – ironweed

Clusters of rich purple flowers in early fall on tall (to 7') stems. Moist to wet soil in full sun.

Needing light to germinate:

Lobelia cardinalis – cardinal flower

Bright red flowers in 3-4' tall spike in midsummer. Prefers moist to wet soil and shade. Seed requires light to germinate, sow on top of soil.

Veronicastrum virginicum – culver's root

Numerous dense spires of white flowers on 4-6' tall stem with whorled leaves. Flowers June. Moist soil, full sun. Seed requires light to germinate, sow on top of soil.