

Tennessee Native Plants for Bees

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Gardening with the Native Plants of Tennessee: The Spirit of Place

www.gardeningwithnativeplants.com

Herbaceous Wildflowers:

Asteraceae - Genera of the Aster Family (composites) are virtually all good for bees. Here are some of our garden-worthy native composites.

Aster cordifolius (*Symphyotrichum cordifolium*) – blue wood aster

A. divaricatus (*Eurybia divaricata*) – white wood aster

A. laevis (*Symphyotrichum laeve*) – smooth aster

A. lateriflorus (*S. lateriflorum*) – calico aster

A. linariifolius (*Ionactis linariifolius*) – stiff-leaved aster

A. novae-angliae (*S. novae-angliae*) – New England aster

A. oblongifolius (*S. oblongifolium*) – aromatic aster

A. patens (*S. patens*) – late purple or spreading aster

A. shortii (*S. shortii*) – Short's aster

Bidens aristosa – tickseed sunflower (annual, seeds prolifically)

Boltonia asteroides – boltonia, false aster

Chrysopsis mariana (*Heterotheca*) – Maryland golden aster

Conoclinium coelestinum – mist flower

Coreopsis spp. – tickseed

auriculata, *verticillata*, *tinctoria*, *tripteris*, *major*, *lanceolata*

Echinacea purpurea – purple coneflower

E. paradoxa – yellow coneflower

E. pallida – pale purple coneflower

E. tennesseensis – Tennessee coneflower

Erigeron pulchellus – Robin's plantain

Eupatorium fistulosum (*Eupatoriadelphus fistulosus*) – Joe-Pye-weed

E. maculatum (*E. maculatus*) – spotted Joe-Pye-weed

E. purpureum – sweet Joe-Pye-weed *E. perfoliatum* – boneset

Helenium flexuosum – purple-headed sneezeweed

Helianthus angustifolius – narrow-leaved or swamp sunflower

H. atrorubens – dark-eyed sunflower

H. divaricatus – woodland sunflower

H. hirsutus – stiff-haired sunflower

H. maximilianii – Maximilian's sunflower

H. microcephalus – small-headed sunflower

H. mollis – ashy sunflower

Heliopsis helianthoides – false sunflower

Liatris spp. – blazing star

aspera, *squarrosa*, *squarulosa*, *scariosa*, *spicata*, *pycnostachya*, *microcephala*

Parthenium integrifolium – wild quinine

Pityopsis graminifolia (*Heterotheca*) – silkgrass, grass-leaved golden aster

Ratibida pinnata – prairie coneflower, gray-headed coneflower

Rudbeckia spp. – black-eyed Susan, coneflowers

fulgida, *hirta*, *laciniata*, *triloba*

Senecio aureus (*Packera aurea*) – golden ragwort

Silphium spp. – rosinweed

Solidago caesia – blue-stemmed goldenrod

S. nemoralis – gray goldenrod

S. odora – sweet goldenrod

S. rugosa – wrinkle-leaved goldenrod

S. speciosa – showy goldenrod

S. sphacelata – autumn goldenrod

Stokesia laevis – Stoke's aster

Vernonia gigantea & *V. noveboracensis* – ironweed

Other herbaceous flowering plants:

- Allium cernuum – nodding onion
Amsonia tabernaemontana, A. hubrichtii, other spp. – blue star
Aquilegia canadensis – wild columbine
Aruncus dioicus – goat's-beard
Asclepias incarnata – swamp milkweed
 A. variegata – white milkweed
 A. tuberosa – butterfly-weed
 A. syriaca – common milkweed
 A. verticillata – whorled milkweed
Campanula americana (Campanulastrum americanum) – tall bellflower
Claytonia virginica – spring beauty
Chelone glabra & Chelone lyonii – turtlehead (white & pink)
Cimicifuga racemosa (Actaea racemosa) – black cohosh
Dicentra eximia – fringed bleeding heart
 D. canadensis & D. cucullaria – squirrel corn & Dutchman's breeches
Eryngium yuccifolium – rattlesnakemaster
Fragaria virginiana – wild strawberry
Impatiens capensis & I. pallida – spotted and pale jewelweed
Lobelia cardinalis & L. siphilitica – cardinal flower & great blue lobelia
Mertensia virginica – Virginia bluebells
Monarda fistulosa – wild bergamot
 M. didyma – bee balm
 M. punctata – dotted horsemint
Phacelia bipinnatifida – purple phacelia
Penstemon spp. – beard-tongue -- laevigatus, hirsutus, calycosus, digitalis
Phlox spp. – phlox – divaricata, maculata, glabberima, pilosa, paniculata, stolonifera, bifida
Physostegia virginiana – false dragonhead, obedient plant
Polygonatum biflorum – Solomon's seal
Pycnanthemum spp. – mountain mint
Sanguinaria canadensis – bloodroot
Salix spp. – willows
Sedum spp. – stonecrop (native and non-native species)
Teucrium canadense – American germander (T. chamaedrys – non-native)
Verbena spp. – vervain
Veronicastrum virginicum – culver's root
Zizia aurea – golden Alexanders

Vines:

- Campsis radicans – trumpet creeper
Clematis virginiana, C. viorna, C. glaucophylla – virgin's bower, leather-flower
Cynanchum laeve – honeyvine (milkweed family) [can be aggressive and weedy]
Passiflora incarnata & P. lutea – passion-flower & yellow passion-flower

Shrubs:

- Ceanothus americanus – New Jersey tea
Cephalanthus occidentalis – buttonbush
Clethra alnifolia – sweet pepperbush
Hypericum spp. – St. John's-wort
Ilex decidua – possumhaw holly
Ilex verticillata – winterberry
Itea virginica – Virginia sweetspire

Lindera benzoin – spicebush [very early flowering (late Mar.) for early bees]
Physocarpus opulifolius – ninebark
Rhus aromatica – fragrant sumac
Rubus spp. – blackberry/raspberry
Sambucus canadensis – common elder
Staphylea trifolia – bladdernut
Symphoricarpos orbiculatus – coralberry
Vaccinium spp. – blueberry, farkleberry, deerberry
Viburnum spp. – viburnum (shrub and tree spp.)

Trees:

Amelanchier spp. – serviceberry
Aralia spinosa – devils-walkingstick
Cercis canadensis – redbud
Cladrastis kentukea – yellowwood (blooms heavily about every 2-3 years)
Cornus spp. – dogwood (tree and shrub spp.)
Crataegus spp. – hawthorn
Diospyros virginiana – persimmon
Gleditsia tricanthos – honeylocust
Ilex opaca – American holly
Liriodendron tulipifera – tulip tree (produces 1/3 tsp of nectar per flower)
Malus angustifolia – crabapple
Oxydendrum arboreum – sourwood
Prunus spp. – cherry, plum
Ptelea trifoliata – wafer-ash, hop tree
Rhamnus caroliniana (Frangula caroliniana) – Carolina buckthorn
Rhus copallina, R. glabra, R. typhina – sumacs
Robinia pseudoacacia – black locust
Tilia americana & T. americana var. heterophylla – American & white basswood

Note: This list reflects plants that attract “bees” in general. Some of them may be more attractive to native bees than honeybees.

Web sites:

The Xerces Society www.xerces.org

Corridors for Tomorrow (Illinois), <http://www.mhs.illinois.edu/~kent/corridors.html> -- The Center for Biodiversity's Illinois Natural History Survey produced an excellent document that lists the types and numbers of pollinators and wildlife that visit various native plants. Many, if not most, of these plants can be found in Tennessee or there may be a closely related species.

Insect Visitors of Illinois, <http://www.shout.net/~july/> -- This Web site has a Bee Database listing all species of bees and the plants each has been observed visiting. Found it as a link from www.illinoiswildflowers.info.