

PLANTS THAT ATTRACT SPECIFIC POLLINATORS

Specialist Bees seek flower pollen from a specific plant or plant species. This dependence poses a risk to their survival. Specialist Bee Families include: Andrenidae, Apidae, Colletidae, Halictidae, Megachilidae and Melittidae. Choosing plants for specialist bees will also benefit Bumble Bees and other generalist pollinators who visit these plants.

Bumble Bees are also at risk because only mated queens survive winter to start a new colony each year.

Butterflies - As with bees who specialize on specific plants, each butterfly species has a specific host (food) plant for its caterpillar. Without appropriate host plants to feed caterpillars, there will be no butterflies.

Herbaceous Plants		Hosting
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	Many bee species
<i>Actaea racemosa</i>	Black Cohosh	Flower flies (Syrphid)
<i>Actaea rubra</i>	Red Baneberry	Flower flies
<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	Purple Anise Hyssop	Bumble Bees (BB's), Hummingbirds
<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	Bluestar	Bumble Bees
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	Pearly Everlasting	American Lady, Painted Lady
<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	Canada Windflower	Many bee species
** <i>Anethum graveolens</i>	Dill	Black Swallowtail
<i>Angelica atropurpurea</i>	Purple-stemmed Angelica	Bumble Bees, Many bee species
<i>Antennaria</i> sps.	Pussytoes	American Lady, Painted Lady
<i>Apocynum</i> sps.	Dogbanes	Many bee and insect species
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Wild Columbine	Hummingbirds
<i>Arabis lyrata</i>	Lyrate Rockcress	Specialist bee(s)
<i>Asclepias</i> sps.	Milkweeds; Butterfly Weed	Monarch; Bumble Bees, Many bee species
<i>Aureolaria</i> sps.	Wild Foxglove	Baltimore Checkerspot
<i>Baptisia</i> sps.	Wild Indigos	Silver-spotted Skipper, Bumble Bees
<i>Bidens</i> sps.	Beggar-ticks	Specialist bee(s)
<i>Boltonia asteroides</i>	Thousand-flower Aster	Specialist bee(s)
* <i>Boehmeria</i> sps.	False Nettles	Red Admiral, Eastern Comma, Question Mark
** <i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage	Painted Lady
** <i>Brassica</i> sps.	Mustards; Cabbages; Nasturtium	Cabbage Whites, Many bee species
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	Flower flies
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Bluebell Bellflower	Bumble Bees
<i>Campanula</i> sps.	Bellflowers	Specialist bee(s) , Bumble Bees
<i>Campanulastrum americanum</i>	American Bellflower	Specialist bee(s)
<i>Cardamine concatenata</i>	Cutleaf Toothwort	Specialist bee(s)
<i>Cardamine diphylla</i>	Crinkleroot	Specialist bee(s)
** <i>Chaenorhinum minus</i>	Snapdragon	Common Buckeye
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	Partridge Sensitive Pea	Bumble Bees, Many bee species
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	White Turtlehead	Baltimore Checkerspot, Common Buckeye; BB's
** <i>Chenopodium album</i>	Lamb's Quarters	Common Sootywing
** <i>Chichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	Many bee species
<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>	Golden Star	Specialist bee(s)

Herbaceous Plants for Pollinators (cont.)		Hosting
Cirsium discolor	Field Thistle	Specialist bee(s) , Bumble Bees
Claytonia caroliniana	Carolina Spring Beauty	Specialist Mining bee(s)
Claytonia virginica	Virginia Spring Beauty	Specialist bee(s)
Comatrum (Potenilla) palustre	Marsh Cinquefoil	2 Specialist bees
Coreopsis sps.	Tickseeds	Specialist bee(s)
** Coriandrum sativum	Coriander (cilantro)	Bumble Bees
Curcubitaceae sps.	Squash, Pumpkin, Cucumber, Melon	Specialist bee(s)
** Daucus carota	Wild Carrot, Queen Anne's Lace	Black Swallowtail
Desmodium canadense	Showy Tick Trefoil	Specialist Bee(s) , Hummingbirds
Dicentra cucullaria	Dutchman's Breeches	Bumble Bees
Dicentra eximia	Wild Bleeding Heart	Hummingbirds
Doellingeria umbellata	Flat-topped Aster	Specialist bee(s)
Echinacea pallida	Pale Purple Coneflower	Specialist bee(s)
Echinacea purpurea	Purple Coneflower	Bumble Bees, Many bee species
Epigaea repens	Trailing Arbutus	Specialist bee(s)
Erigeron sps.	Fleabanes, Robin's Plaintain	Specialist bee(s)
Eryngium yuccifolium	Rattlesnake Master, Button Eryngo	Tunnel-nesting and small bees, Flower flies
Erythronium americanum	Trout Lily	Specialist Mining bee(s)
Eupatorium sps.	Bonesets	Specialist bee(s)
Eurybia (Aster) sps.	Wood Asters	Specialist bee(s)
Euthamia caroliniana	Coastal Plain Grass-leaved Goldenrod	3 Specialist bees
Euthamia graminifolia	Common Grass-leaved Goldenrod	3 Specialist bees
Eutrochium sps.	Joe-Pye Weeds	Specialist bee(s) , Bumble Bees
** Foeniculum vulgare	Sweet Fennel	Black Swallowtail
Fragaria vesca	Woodland Strawberry	Specialist bee(s)
Fragaria virginiana	Wild Strawberry	Specialist bee(s)
Gaillardia aristata	Blanket Flower	Many bee species
Gentiana clausa	Bottle gentian	Bumble Bees
Geranium maculatum	Wild Geranium	Specialist bee(s) , Bumble Bees
Geum aleppicum	Yellow Avens	Specialist bee(s)
Geum canadense	White Avens	Specialist bee(s)
Geum fragarioides	Appalachian Barren Strawberry	Specialist bee(s)
Helenium autumnale	Sneezeweed	Specialist bee(s) , Bumble Bees
Helenium flexuosum	Purplehead Sneezeweed	Specialist bee(s) , Bumble Bees
Helianthus sps.	Sunflowers	Checkerspot; 3 Specialist bees , Bumble Bees
Heliopsis helianthoides	Oxeye	Specialist bee(s)
** Heterotheca subaxillaris	Camphorweed	Many bee species
Heuchera americana	American Alumroot	Specialist bee(s)
Hibiscus sps.	Rose Mallows	Specialist bee(s) , Hummingbirds
Hieracium gronovii	Beaked Hawkweed	Specialist bee(s)
Hieracium kalmii	Canada Hawkweed	Specialist bee(s)
Housatonia caerulea	Bluet, Azure Bluet	Specialist bee(s)
Humulus lupulus	American Common Hop	Eastern Comma, Question Mark
Hydrophyllum canadense	Blunt-leaved Waterleaf	Specialist bee(s) , Bumble Bees, Orchard Bees

Herbaceous Plants for Pollinators (cont.)		Hosting
Impatiens sps.	Jewelweed, touch-me-not	Bumble Bees
Ionactis (Aster) linariifolia	Stiff-leaved Aster	Specialist bee(s)
Iris sps.	Iris	Bumble Bees
Krigia biflora	Two-flowered Dwarf Dandelion	Specialist bee(s)
Lavendula sps.	Lavenders	Many bee species
Liatris sps.	Blazing Stars	Specialist bee(s) , Bumble Bees
Lilium sps.	Lily	Tiger Swallowtail
Lobelia cardinalis	Red Cardinal Flower	Hummingbirds
Lobelia siphilitica	Great Blue Lobelia	Hummingbirds, Bumble Bees
**Lobularia maritima	Sweet Alyssum	Many bee species, Flower flies
Lupinus perennis	Sundial Lupine	Eastern Tailed Blue, Karner Blue, Mason & BB's
**Lupinus polyphyllus	Garden Lupine	Hummingbirds
Lysimachia ciliata	Fringed Loosestrife	3 Specialist bees
Lysimachia hybrida	Lowland Yellow Loosestrife	3 Specialist bees
Lysimachia terrestris	Earth Loosestrife	3 Specialist bees
Maianthemum canadensis	Canada Mayflower	Bumble Bees, Many bee species
Mertensia virginica	Virginia Bluebells	Bumble Bees, Many bee species
Mimulus ringens	Allegheny Monkey Flower	Common Buckeye
Mitchella repens	Partridgeberry	Bumble Bees
Monarda sps.	Oswego Tea; Bee-balm; Bergamot	Specialist bee(s) , Bumble Bees, Hummingbirds
Monarda punctata	Dotted Mint	Specialist bee(s) , Bumble Bees
**Nepeta sps.	Catmints; Catnip	Bumble Bees
Oclemena acuminata	Whorled Wood Aster	Specialist bee(s)
Oenothera sps.	Primrose, Sundrops	Specialist bee(s) , Nocturnal pollinating moths
Osmorhiza longistylis	Long-styled Sweet Cicely	Many bee species, Flower flies
Packera anonyma	Small's Ragwort or Groundsel	Specialist bee(s)
Packera aurea	Golden Groundsel; Golden Ragwort	Specialist bee(s)
Packera obovata	Running Groundsel	Specialist bee(s)
Packera paupercula	Balsam Groundsel	Specialist bee(s)
**Paeonia lactiflora	Peony	Bees and Flower flies
Penstemon sps.	Beardtongues	Checkerspot, Specialist bee(s) , Hummingbirds
**Petroselinum crispum	Parsley	Black Swallowtail
Phlox sps.	Phlox	Hummingbird Moth
Physostegia virginiana	Obedient Plant	Bumble Bees
Plantago sps.	Plantains	Baltimore Checkerspot, Common Buckeye
Polemonium reptans	Jacob's Ladder	Specialist bee(s)
Polygonatum biflorum	Solomon's Seal	Bumble Bees, Hummingbirds
Pontederia cordata	Pickerelweed	2 Specialist bees
Potentilla canadensis	Dwarf Cinquefoil	2 Specialist bees
Pycnanthemum sps.	Mountain Mints	Specialist bee(s)
Rudbeckia sps.	Black-eyed Susan; Coneflowers	Specialist bee(s)
*Rumex	Docks; Sorrels	American Copper
Salvia lyrata	Lyre-leaved Sage	Bumble Bees, Hummingbirds
*Salvia sps.	Sage	Hummingbirds

Herbaceous Plants for Pollinators (cont.)

Hosting

<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	Bloodroot	Bumble Bees, Many bee species
<i>Sedum</i> sps.	Sedums	Bumble Bees
<i>Senna hebecarpa</i>	Northern Wild Senna	Yellows
<i>Sericocarpis asteroides</i>	Toothed White-topped Aster	Specialist bee(s)
<i>Sericocarpis linifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved White-topped Aster	Specialist bee(s)
<i>Silene virginica</i>	Fire Pink Selene	Hummingbirds, Nocturnal Moths, Many bees
Solanaceae sps.	Tomato, Potato, Eggplant, Pepper	Specialist bees(s)
<i>Solanum ptycanthum-americanum</i>	Eastern Black Nightshade	Bumble Bees
<i>Solidago</i> sps.	Goldenrods	11 Specialist bees , Bumble Bees
<i>Strophostyles helvola</i>	Annual Wooley Bean	Specialist bee(s)
<i>Symphotrichum</i> sps.	Asters	Pearl Crescent, Checkerspot, 7 Specialists , BB's
<i>Tephrosia virginiana</i>	Wild Goat's Rue	Specialist bee(s)
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	Heart-leaf foamflower	Specialist bee(s) , Nocturnal pollinating moths
<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	Ohio Spiderwort	Bumble Bees
<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	Virginia Spiderwort	Bumble Bees
**Trifolium sps.	Clovers	East.Tailed Blue, Sulphurs, Silver-spotted Skipper
** Trifolium sps. (cont.)	Clovers	Bumble Bees, Many bee species
<i>Trillium erectum</i>	Red Trillium	Bumble Bees, Flower flies
*Urtica sps.	Nettles	Eastern Comma, Question Mark, Red Admiral
<i>Uvularia perfoliata</i>	Perfoliate Bellwort	Specialist bee(s)
<i>Uvularia sessilifolia</i>	Sessile-leaved Bellwort	Specialist bee(s)
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue Vervain	Specialist bee(s) , Bumble Bee
<i>Verbena urticifolia</i>	White Vervain	Specialist bee(s) , Bumble Bee
<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	New York Ironweed	Specialist bee(s)
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's Root	Bumble Bees, Many bee species
**Vicia sps.	Vetches	Eastern Tailed Blue, Bumble Bees, Many bees sps.
<i>Viola</i> sps.	Violets	Fritillaries, Specialist bee(s)
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	Yucca	Nocturnal pollinating moths
<i>Zizia aptera</i>	Meadow Zizia	Specialist bee(s)
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexander	Black Swallowtail, Specialist bee(s)

Vines for Pollinators

<i>Apios americana</i>	Common Ground-nut; Legumes	Eastern Tailed Blue, Yellows, Silver-spotted Skipper
<i>Clematis</i> sps.	Virgin's Bower, Clematis	Hummingbirds
<i>Lonicera canadensis</i>	American Honeysuckle	Hummingbirds
<i>Lonicera dioica</i>	Wild Honeysuckle	Bumble Bees, Hummingbirds
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Trumpet Honeysuckle	Bumble Bees, Hummingbirds
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper	Bumble Bees, Many bee species
<i>Vitis</i> sps.	Grapes	Bumble Bees

Shrubs for Pollinators

<i>Amelanchier spicata</i> (stonlonifera)	Dwarf Shadblow	Bumble Bees
<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	Bog Rosemary	Specialist bee(s)
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry, Kinickinick	Specialist bee(s)

Shrubs for Pollinators (cont.)		Hosting
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red Chokeberry	Bumble Bees, Many bee species
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberry	Bumble Bees, Many bee species
Baccharis halimifolia	Eastern False Willow, Groundsel-tree	Specialist bee(s)
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey Tea	Spring Azure, Common Blue, Specialist bee(s)
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Common Buttonbush	Bumble Bees, Many bee species
Chamaedaphne calyculata	Leatherleaf	Specialist bee(s)
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Summersweet	Bumblebees, Hummingbirds
Dasphora (Potentilla) floribunda	Shrubby Cinquefoil	2 Specialist bees
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Northern Bush Honeysuckle	Bumble Bees
Epigaea repens	Trailing Arbutus	Specialist bee(s)
Eubotrys racemosa	Swamp Doghobble	Specialist bee(s)
Gaultheria procumbens	Eastern Teaberry	Specialist bee(s)
Gaylussacia baccata	Black Huckleberry	Specialist bee(s)
* <i>Hydrangea</i> sps.	Hydrangeas	Bumble Bees, Many bee species
<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	Shrubby St. John's-wort	Bumble Bees
Ilex glabra	Inkberry	Specialist bee(s) , Bumble Bees
Ilex montana	Mountain Winterberry	Specialist bee(s) , Bumble Bees
Ilex mucronata	Mountain Holly, Catberry	Specialist bee(s) , Bumble Bees
Ilex verticillata	Winterberry	Specialist bee(s) , Bumble Bees
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia Sweetspire	Many bee species
Kalmia angustifolia	Sheep Laurel	Specialist bees(s) , Bumble Bees
Kalmia latifolia	Mountain Laurel	Specialist bee(s) , Bumble Bees
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Northern Spicebush	Spicebush Swallowtail
Lyonia ligustrina	Maleberry	2 Specialist bees
Physalis longifolia var.subglabrata	Long-leaved Ground Cherry	2 Specialist bees
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Atlantic Ninebark	Many bee species
<i>Prunus maritima</i>	Beach Plum	Bumble Bees, Many bee species
Rhododendron periclymenoides	Pinxterbloom Azalea	Specialist bee(s) , Hummingbirds
Rhododendron sps.	Rhododendrons; Azaleas	Specialist bee(s) , Hummingbirds
<i>Rhus</i> sps.	Sumacs	Ceratina bees
Rosa sps.	Roses: Swamp, Virginia, Carolina	Specialist bee(s) , Many bee species
<i>Rubus</i> sps.	Raspberry; Blackberry; Dewberry	Ceratina bees
Salix sps.	Willows; Pussywillow	Viceroy, Mourning Cloak, Question Mark, Fritillaries
<i>Salix</i> sps. (cont.)	Willows; Pussywillow	8 Specialist bees , Bumble Bees
<i>Sambucus</i> sps.	Elderberries	Ceratina bees
<i>Spiraea alba</i> var. <i>latifolia</i>	Meadowsweet	Spring Azure
Spiraea tomentosa	Steeplebush	Many bee species
Swida (Cornus) sps.	Dogwoods: Silky, Gray, Red-Osier	Spring Azure, Common Blue, Specialist bee(s)
** <i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Common Lilac	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Vaccinium sps.	Blueberry; Cranberry; Deerberry	Fritillaries, 5 Specialist bees , Bumble Bees
<i>Viburnum</i> sps.	Viburnums	Spring Azure

Trees for Specific Pollinators		Hosting
Acer sps.	Maples	Mining and Collettes Bees
Amelanchier arborea	Downy Shadbush	Bumble Bees, Many bee species
Amelanchier canadensis	Serviceberry	Bumle Bees, Many bee species
Amelanchier laevis	Smooth Serviceberry	Bumble Bees, Many bee species
Benthamidia (Cornus) florida	Flowering Dogwood	Specialist bee(s)
Betula sps.	Birches	Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Purple
Carya sps.	Hickories	Banded Hairstreak
Celtis occidentalis	Hackberry	Eastern Comma, Question Mark
Cercis canadensis	Eastern Redbud	Specialist bee(s) , Bumble Bees
Chionanthus virginicus	Fringe Tree	Long-tongued bees
Crataegus sps.	Hawthorns	Specialist Bee(s)
Fraxinus sps.	Ash	Long-tongued bees
Hamamelis virginiana	Witch-hazel	Bumble Bees, Many bee species
Ilex opaca	American Holly	Specialist bee(s) , Bumble Bees
Juglan sps.	Walnuts	Banded Hairstreak
Juniperus virginiana	Eastern Red Cedar	Juniper Hairstreak
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip Poplar	Spicebush Swallowtail, East.Tiger Swallowtail
Malus prunifolia	Crabapple	Orchard and Mining Bees
Nyssa sylvatica	Black Gum, Tupelo	Many bee species
Populus sps.	Poplars, Cottonwood	Viceroy, Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Purple
Prunus sps.	Cherries; Plum	Hairstreaks, Swallowtail, Red-spotted Purple, Azure
Prunus serotina	Black Cherry	Specialist bee(s)
Prunus virginiana	Chokecherry	Bumble Bees
Quercus sps.	Oaks	Hairstreaks, Red-spotted Purple, Juv. Duskywing
Salix sps.	Willows	Viceroy, Mourning Cloak, Question Mark, Fritillaries
Salix sps. (cont.)	Willows	8 Specialist bees , Bumble Bees
Sassafras albidum	Sassafras	Spicebush Swallowtail, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Sorbus sps.	Mountain Ash	Many insect species
Swida (Cornus) alternifolia	Alternate-leaved Dogwood	Spring Azure, Common Blue, Specialist bee(s)
Tilia americana	American Linden, Basswood	Bumble Bees, Green Sweat Bees
Ulmus sps.	Elms	Mourning Cloak, Question Mark

Grasses for Pollinators

Carex sps.	Sedges	Common Wood Nymph
Panicum virgatum	Panic Grass, Switch Grass	Grass Skippers
Tridens flavus	Purple-top Tridens	Skippers, Little Glassywing, Common Wood Nymph
Schizachyrium scoparium	Little Blue Stem	Grass Skippers

**** Non-Native Introduced Plant**

*** Some Plant Species are Native to CT**

NOTE: Highlighted plants are hugely important for supporting Specialist Bees.