

Bumblebee-Friendly Gardening



Pollination Superheroes

Native bumblebees are important pollinators of ornamental plants and of food crops like tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants. Bumblebees have the amazing ability to “buzz pollinate” by vibrating their wing muscles at 132 beats per second, which helps them pollinate faster and more efficiently than non-native honeybees.




How to “Bee” a Bumblebee Friendly Gardener



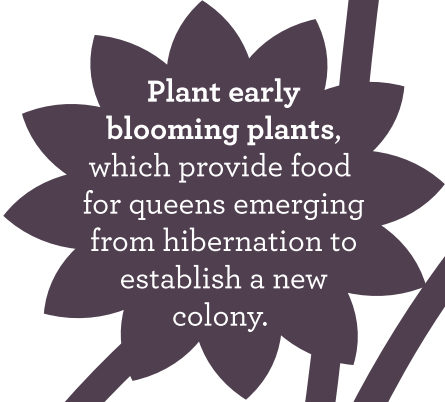
Plant late-season flowers, a great source of food for new queens storing energy for winter hibernation.




Group plants together in your garden to help bumblebees forage more efficiently.



Avoid using pesticides, which can harm people, pets, and insects.



Plant early blooming plants, which provide food for queens emerging from hibernation to establish a new colony.



Preserve leaf litter, downed wood, and bunch grasses, which provide protection for hibernating queens in winter.



Did you know that lawn clovers are an important source of food for bumblebees?

According to the Xerces Society, non-native clovers are extremely beneficial bee forage; with high sugar concentrations from nectar and high protein levels from pollen.

Easy-Care Native Plants for Bumblebees (and other pollinators!)



These plants are great for beginners and help provide important food sources for bumblebees in the northeastern United States. Try to provide a variety of plants that flower throughout the seasons: spring to summer to fall.

Early Season Shrubs + Trees for Queen Bumblebees

Redbud *Cercis canadensis*
Serviceberry *Amelanchier* spp.
Crabapple *Malus* spp.
Pussywillow *Salix discolor**
American holly *Ilex opaca*
Black cherry *Prunus serotina*
Lowbush blueberry *Vaccinium angustifolium*

Summer Blooming Shrubs

St. John's Wort *Hypericum frondosum**
Winterberry holly *Ilex verticillata*
Sweet pepperbush *Clethra alnifolia*
Smooth hydrangea *Hydrangea arborescens*
Shrubby cinquefoil *Potentilla fruticosa*
Virginia rose *Rosa virginiana**
Bush honeysuckle *Diervilla lonicera*
New Jersey tea *Ceanothus americanus*
Common elderberry *Sambucus canadensis*

Late Spring/Summer Blooming Perennials

Foxglove beardtongue *Penstemon digitalis*
Virginia spiderwort *Tradescantia virginiana*
Wild blue indigo *Baptisia australis*
Butterflyweed *Asclepias tuberosa*
Common milkweed *Asclepias syriaca*
Purple coneflower *Echinacea purpurea*
Blazing star *Liatris spicata*
Tickseed *Coreopsis verticillata*
Wild bergamot *Monarda fistulosa*
Lavender hyssop *Agastache foeniculum*
Narrowleaf mountainmint *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*
Obedient plant *Physostegia virginiana*

Fall Blooming Perennials

Aromatic aster *Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*
New England aster *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*
Fireworks goldenrod *Solidago rugosa**
Showy goldenrod *Solidago speciosa**
Lemon queen sunflower *Helianthus*
Joe Pye weed *Eutrochium purpureum**



Thanks to Con Edison for partially funding this Westchester Land Trust program and for supporting local efforts to make our communities more pollinator friendly.

*Good sources of pollen <https://beecology.wpi.edu>

Learn more about pollinators at bit.ly/WLTbees.