

Early season plants for queen bumble bees – from Massachusetts

- Rhododendron (*Rhododendron* spp.)
- American pussy willow (*Salix discolor*)
- Dogwood (*Cornus* spp.)
- American holly (*Ilex opaca*)
- Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*)
- Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)
- Black willow (*Salix nigra*)
- Beach plum (*Prunus maritima*)
- Beard tongue (*Penstemon* spp.)
- Southern arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*)
- Swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*)
- Lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)

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Queen bumble bees emerge first, early in spring, and need nectar from early-blooming native plants in order to survive and lay eggs creating her colony of workers in a ground nest. The presence of these plants has been shown to increase survival of bumble bees in the Northeast.