



# Bee Habitat

What can you do to improve and increase habitat?

## Help Bees

### Three Easy Steps

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#### Create a Diversity of Bloom

Bees need abundant nectar and pollen sources throughout the growing season. Select native plants wherever possible. Cultivate a landscape with diverse flower colors, shapes and bloom times. Try to provide blooming plants from early Spring to Fall. Avoid pollenless cultivars and double petaled varieties of ornamental flowers.

#### Protect Nests and Egg-Laying Sites

Native bees use untidy areas of the garden to nest such as open sandy ground, brush piles and old tree stumps. Consider leaving some of these for bee habitat. Supplement nesting opportunities with mason bee houses or bundles of hollow plant stems.

#### Don't use pesticides

Pesticides are important tools for protecting crops and controlling invasive species, however most lawn and garden pest problems can be solved without such chemicals. Keep in mind that even organic pesticides can harm pollinators

*Info from [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org)*



University of Idaho Master Gardeners are doing their part to help bees by planting pollinator plants at the Weiser Community Pond

#### The Issue:

- Pollinators are vital for both wildflowers and crops. Without them , about 85% of plants would be unable to produce seeds or fruit.
- Changes in our landscapes have contributed to declines in both managed honey bees and wild native bees.
- There are simple steps that you can take to support bees and other pollinators wherever you live.

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## Planting for Success

STORY ADAPTED FROM THE  
XERCES SOCIETY FOR INVERTE-  
BRATE CONSERVATION

### Sun Exposure

Most pollinator-friendly plants prefer sites that receive full sun throughout most of the day and are mostly open, with few large trees.

### Plant Diversity

Choosing a variety of plants with overlapping and sequential bloom periods will provide food for pollinators throughout the season.

### Habitat Size and Shape

Habitat patches that are bigger and closer to other patches are generally better than those that are smaller and more isolated from one another.

### Planting Layout

Flowers clustered into clumps of one species will attract more bees than individual plants scattered through a habitat patch. When space allows, plant clumps of the same species within a few feet of one another.

### Seeds or Transplants

It is usually cheaper to establish large habitat areas from seed; however, seeding native wildflowers on a large scale is an art unto itself. For smaller areas, like gardens, transplants are usually easier to use.

## What to Plant

### Trees

Chokecherry  
Crab Apple  
Lilac

### Shrubs

Bluebeard  
Ninebark  
Oceanspray  
Russian Sage  
Saskatoon Serviceberry  
Woods Rose

### Perennial Flowers

Agastache  
Arrowleaf balsamroot  
Aster  
Basalt milkvetch  
Biscuitroot  
Blanketflower  
Blue Flax  
Buckwheat  
Catmint  
Globemallow  
Lavender  
Maximillian Sunflower

Oregano  
Oregon sunshine  
Penstemon  
Purple Prairie Clover  
Sweet clover  
Yarrow

### Annual Flowers

Buckwheat  
California Poppy  
Coreopsis  
Cosmos  
Golden Bee Plant  
Rocky Mountain Bee Plant  
Sunflower  
Zinnia



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