



Bee Habitat

What can you do to improve and increase habitat?

Help Bees

Three Easy Steps

BY MONTESSA YOUNG

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



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
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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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