INSECTARY PLANTS FOR HONEY BEES AND BENEFICIAL INSECTS

Everyone is a beekeeper!

Tips for success:

Choose heirloom varieties – a simple flower design allows easy access to quality nectar and pollen

Cut back your plants for repeat blooms throughout the season

Let herbs and vegetables bolt - valuable nectar and pollen are found in the flowers

Plant in drifts - honey bees exhibit flower constancy and like to forage among a single type of flower

Provide blooms throughout the season for a constant supply of high quality bee forage

Strive for organic, pesticide free gardening practices - never spray pesticides when bees are foraging

The following list is a compilation of our favorite plants for pollinators in the Willamette Valley, organized by season of most benefit. Some plants are beneficial for nectar, pollen, or both.

(B) - bulb, (A) - annual, (P) - perennial, (S) - shrub, (T) - tree

*also great for beneficial insects (such as hoverflies, lacewings, ladybugs, parasitic wasps, etc.)

WINTER

Alnus spp. - alder (T)
Anemone spp. - anemone (P)
Corylus americana - hazelnut (S)
Corylus avellana - filbert (T)
Crocus spp. - Crocus (B)
Eranthis hyemalis - winter aconite (B)
Erica spp. - heather (P)
Galanthus spp. - snowdrop (B)
Hamamelis vernalis - witch hazel (S)
Helleborus spp. - hellebore (P)
Helleborus foetidus - hellebore (P)
Iberis spp. - candytuft (P)
Mahonia x media – winter mahonia (S)
Oemleria cerasiformis - indian plum (S)*
Pieris japonica – Andromeda (S)
Primula spp. – primrose (A/P)
Salix spp. - early willows (S)
Sarcococca hookeriana - sweet box (S)

SPRING

Acer spp. - maple (T)
Allium spp. - onions, chives (B)
Angelica archangelica - angelica (P)
Berberis spp. - oregon grape (S)
Ceanothus spp. - California lilac (S)*
Cercis canadensis - redbud (T)
Chaenomeles japonica - flowering quince (S)
Cheiranthus allioni - siberian wallflower (P)*
Cotoneaster spp. - cotoneaster (S)
Crataegus spp. - hawthorne (T)
Daboecia spp. – heath/heather (S)

Elaeagnus multiflora - elaeagnus (S)
Erysimum spp. – Wallflower (P)
Eschsholtzia californica - California poppy (A)
Fragaria spp. - strawberry (P)
Fraxinus latifolia - ash (T)
Galium odoratum - sweet woodruff (P)
Hyacinth spp. - hyacinth (B)
Ilex spp. - holly (T/S)
Ligustrum - privet (S)
Liriodendron spp. - tulip tree (T)
Lobularia maritima - alyssum (A)*
Mahonia aquifolium - mahonia (S)
Malus floribunda - crab apple (T)
Muscari armeniacum - muscari (B)
Papaver orientale - oriental poppy (P)
Philadelphus coronarius - mock orange (S)
Physocarpus capitatus - ninebark (T)
Prunus spp. - cherry, plum, laurel (T)
Pyrus spp. - pear (T)
Pyracantha coccinea - firethorn (S)
Ribes sanguineum - flowering currant (S)
Rhamnus purshiana - cascara, chittum (S)
Robinia pseudoacacia - black locust (T)
Salvia splendens - salvia (A)
Scabiosa caucasica – pincushion flower (P)
Scilla siberica - siberian squill (B)
Sorbus spp. - mountain ash (T)
Vaccinium spp. - blueberry, huckleberry (P)
Vitis spp. - grape (P)
Wisteria spp. - wisteria (S)

SUMMER

Abelia x grandiflora - abelia (S)
Achillea millefolium - yarrow (P)*
Agastache foeniculum - anise hyssop (P)*
Alcea rosa - hollyhock (P)
Allium spp. - onions (A)
Alstroemeria spp. – Lily of the Incas (P)
Anaphalis margaritacea - pearly everlasting (P)
Anethum graveolens - dill (A)*
Anthriscus cerefolium - chervil (A)*
Asclepias spp. – milkweed (P)*
Borago officinalis - borage (A)*
Brassica spp. - brassica crops (A)*
Callicarpa dichotoma - beautyberry (P)
Campanula spp. - campanula (P)
Caryopteris x clandonensis – bluebeard
  'Dark Knight' (S)
Catalpa spp. – catalpa (T)
Centaurea spp. - bachelor button, cornflower
Chrysanthemum x superbum - shasta daisy (P)*
Cladrastis lutea - yellow wood (T)
Clethra spp. – summer sweet (S)
Coriandrum sativum - cilantro (A)
Crataegus phaenopyrum - hawthorn (P)
Cucurbita spp. - squash (A)*
Echinacea purpurea - echinacea (P)
Erica spp. – heath/heather (S)
Erynginum planum - eryngium (P)
Helianthus annus - sunflower (P)
Hyssop spp. - hyssop (P)
Lavandula spp. - lavender (P)*
Lonicera spp. - honeysuckle (S)
Melissa officianalis - lemon balm (P)*
Mentha spp. - mints (P)
Monarda spp. - bee balm, bergamot (P)
Nepeta spp. - catmint*, catnip (P)*
Nepeta mussinii - catmint (P)
Nyssa sylvatica - tupelo (T)
Ocimum basilicum - basil (A)
Origanum vulgare - oregano (P)
Oxydendrum arboreum - sour-wood (S)
Penstemon spp. - penstemon (P)
Perovskia abrotanoides - russian sage (P)*
Phacelia tanacetifolia - phacelia (A)
Pimpinella anisum - anise (A)*
Rosa spp. - single roses (P)
Rosmarinus officinalis - rosemary (P)
Rubus spp. - blackberry (P)
Rudbeckia spp. - coneflower (P)*

Salvia spp. - salvia (P)
Salvia sclarea - clary sage (P)
Sophora japonica - japanese pagoda tree (T)
Spirea spp. - spirea (S)
Symphoricarpos albus - snowberry (S)
Symphytum spp. - comfrey (P)*
Tagetes tenuifolia - marigold, signet (A)
Tanacetum parthenium - feverfew (P)*
Tilia spp. - linden, basswood (T)
Thymus spp. - thyme (P)
Veronica spp. – speedwell (P)
Viburnum spp. - viburnum (S)
Zinnia elegans - zinnia (A)

AUTUMN

Abelia spp. – abelia (S)
Aster spp. - aster (P)
Chrysanthemum spp. - chrysanthemum (P)
Crocus spp. - fall crocus (B)
Cosmos bipinnatus - cosmos (P)
Osmanthus spp. - osmanthus (S)
Salvia spp. - fall salvias (P)
Sedum spp. - stonecrop 'Autumn Joy' (P)
Solidago spp. - goldenrod (P)*
Teucrium chamaedrys – germander (S)
Tropaeolum majus - nasturtium (A)*

LAWNS AND COVER CROPS

Bellis perennis - lawn daisy (P)*
Fagopyrum esceulentum - buckwheat
Melilotus officinalis - yellow sweet clover (P)*
Phacelia tanacetifolia - phacelia (A)
Prunella vulgaris - heal-all (P)*
Trifolium incarnatum - crimson clover (P)*
Trifolium repens - dutch white clover (P)*
Vicia villosa - hairy vetch (P)*