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Thompson Shuswap Master Gardeners



Visit our website  
**MGABC.ca**

### Additional Information:

- Native Bee Society of BC  
bcnativebees.org
- Bee City Canada  
beecitycanada.org
- Canadian Wildlife Federation  
cwf-fcf.org/en/
- Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation  
xerces.org
- Pollinator Partnership Canada  
pollinatorpartnership.ca
- Linda Gilkeson West Coast Gardening  
lindagilkeson.ca

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# Gardening For Pollinators & Other Beneficial Insects

You can support biodiversity in your own backyard by growing pollinator-friendly plants and creating habitat!

## The Role of Pollinators

Pollinators transfer pollen between plants for fruit and seed production. They are essential for food security and ecological life support. Pollinators include bees, flies, moths, butterflies, beetles and more!

## Native Bees

BC has 500+ species of native bees! They are mostly solitary and don't form hives. Over 70% of native bee species spend most of their lives underground in tunnels while others live in dead wood cavities or pithy stems. Native bees collect mostly pollen and do not produce surplus honey like honey bees, which are introduced from Europe.

## Beneficial Insects

Attracting natural enemies to your garden can provide permanent pest suppression. Enemies include lady beetles, scymnus beetles, syrphid flies and lacewings. However, it is usually the larva that is predatory. Adult beneficial insects need nectar and pollen.



Lacewing larvae



Lady beetle larvae



Scymnus beetle larvae



Syrphid fly larvae

## Enhance Habitat

- Allow a corner of your yard to go wild with grasses, wildflowers, logs and brush that provides food, nesting sites, shelter and over-wintering sites.
- Leave areas in your yard mulch-free for ground nesting bees.
- Provide a muddy spot to supply nutrients and nesting materials.
- Leave leaf litter in your garden for bumblebee over-wintering sites.
- Choose plants well suited to survive in our arid climate to reduce water usage.
- Provide water in a shallow dish or birdbath with rocks for perching.
- Avoid pesticide use.

## Choose Diversity

- A variety of flowers blooming throughout the seasons,
- A variety of flower shapes for pollinators of all kinds and sizes,
- Native flowers: many bees are specialists and rely on certain plants from the local ecosystem,
- Clumps or swaths of each flower species.

# Plant Selection Chart

Ornamental Annuals		Bloom Time							
Full Sun		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
Signet marigold	<i>Tagetes tenuifolia</i>								
Mexican sunflower	<i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>								
Salvia, blue	<i>Salvia farinacea</i>								
Tickseed	<i>Bidens ferulifolia</i>								
Full Sun to Part Sun									
Cosmos	<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>								
Lacey phacelia	<i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i>								
Pot marigold	<i>Calendula officinalis</i>								
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>								
Sweet alyssum	<i>Lobularia maritima</i>								
Ornamental Perennials									
Full Sun									
Blanket flower	<i>Gaillardia x grandiflora</i>								
Catmint	<i>Nepeta x faassenii</i>								
Russian sage	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>								
Lavender	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>								
Onions (globe)	<i>Allium spp.</i>								
Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>								
Rockcress	<i>Arabis caucasica</i>								
Salvia	<i>Salvia nemorosa</i>								
Stonecrop	<i>Sedum spp.</i>								
Full Sun to Part Sun									
Beebalm	<i>Monarda spp.</i>								
Cranesbill	<i>Geranium spp.</i>								
Giant hyssop	<i>Agastache spp.</i>								
Joe pye weed	<i>Eutrochium purpureum</i>								



Native Wildflowers		Bloom Time							
Full Sun		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
Canada goldenrod	<i>Solidago canadensis</i>								
Golden aster	<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>								
Leafy aster	<i>Symphotrichum foliaceum</i>								
Rocky mtn helianthella	<i>Helianthella uniflora</i>								
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>								
Full Sun to Part Sun									
Blanket flower	<i>Gaillardia artistata</i>								
Kinnikinnick	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>								
Nodding onion	<i>Allium cernuum</i>								
Pussytoes	<i>Antennaria dimorpha</i>								
Pearly everlasting	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>								
Rocky mtn bee plant	<i>Cleome (Peritoma) serrulata</i>								
Shrubby penstemon	<i>Penstemon fruticosus</i>								
Showy fleabane	<i>Erigeron speciosus</i>								
White heath aster	<i>Symphotrichum ericoides</i>								
Shrubs & Trees									
Rocky mtn maple	<i>Acer glabrum</i>								
Mock orange	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>								
Ocean spray	<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>								
Scouler's willow	<i>Salix scouleriana</i>								
Oregon grape	<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>								
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>								
Shrubby cinquefoil	<i>Dasiphora fruticosa</i>								
Saskatoon	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>								
Red osier dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>								
Wolf willow	<i>Elaeagnus commutata</i>								
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>								



**Avoid Double Petals**  
Flowers bred with extra petals tend to produce less pollen and nectar. It can also be difficult for pollinators to get inside the dense petals.



**Let Your Herbs Flower**  
Pollinator and beneficial insect favourites include mint, oregano, parsley, coriander, fennel, caraway, summer savory, dill, basil, and thyme.



**Spring Blossoms**  
Fruit trees and bushes such as apple, apricot, cherry, raspberries, currants and haskap are important spring forage for pollinators.



**Shelter Plants**  
Grasses such as bluebunch wheatgrass and fescues provide shelter for beneficial insects. Bumblebee queens often overwinter under grasses.

