

Garden Plants Particularly Good for Honey Bees and Hardy in the British Isles

Wild Species and varieties, Native or Well-Established and Non-Invasive in the British Isles

Flowering times key:

Spring flowering (March, April, May) = Summer flowering (June, July, August) = Flowers in the 'June Gap' = Autumn flowering (September, October, November) = Winter flowering (December, January, February) =

Spp = Species Syn = synonym

"A simple but effective guide to help all pollinators is to select plants with a single, open flower. Most of our honey comes from wild and cultivated crops between May and August, therefore gardeners should try to provide a constant nectar source, particularly earlier in spring and later in autumn when there are fewer sources available. The June gap is traditionally the first two weeks in June but it varies from year to year a little, and sometimes there is hardly any. Some plants that always used to flower in the June Gap, such as *Cotoneaster horizontalis*, now seem to flower earlier, but the Chestnuts and Sycamore are major nectar plants and so if they flowered in the June gap, there would not be one." David Packham, Seasonal Bee Inspector, Devon.

TREES—Large

<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>		Horse chestnut. Major Nectar + Pollen, April–May. Honey crop. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Acer campestre</i> , <i>Acer</i> spp		Field Maple and other spp which flower in a temperate climate. Nectar + Pollen, April–May.
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>		Sycamore. Major Nectar + Pollen, April–May. Honey crop. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Alnus cordata</i>		Italian alder, for draining soil. Major pollen, February–April.
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>		Common alder, for boggy soil. Major Pollen, early March.
<i>Castanea sativa</i>		Sweet chestnut. Pollen, July. Major Nectar + Pollen.
<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>		Indian bean tree. Nectar + major Pollen, July–August.
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>		Tulip tree. Nectar major, June, July.
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>		False acacia. Nectar, June.
<i>Salix</i> sp		Willow, all species. Major Nectar + Pollen, February–May. Honey crop. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Sorbus intermedia</i>		Swedish Whitebeam. Nectar + Pollen, May–June.
<i>Sorbus aria</i>		Whitebeam. Nectar + Pollen, April–May.
<i>Tilia cordata</i>		Small-leaved Lime. Native tree in decline. Nectar major late July. Honey source. The most resistant of the Lime species to Honeydew mould. Excellent for all bees.
(and some other <i>Tilia</i> spp)		

TREES—Medium and Small

<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> , <i>A. lamarkii</i>		Snowy mespilus or Juneberry. Pollen, March–May. Edible fruit June.
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>		Strawberry tree. Nectar + Pollen, October–December.
<i>Caragana arborescens</i>		Siberian pea tree. Nectar + Pollen, April–May. Resistant to Fireblight.
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>		Judas tree. Nectar, April–June.
<i>Corylus avellana</i>		Hazel, Cobnut. Pollen, early March, April.
<i>Cotoneaster frigidus</i>		Himalayan tree cotoneaster. Nectar + Pollen both major, June, July. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>		Hawthorn. Nectar + Pollen, May.
<i>Crataegus laevigata</i> (and many <i>Crataegus</i> spp.)		Midland Hawthorn. Nectar + Pollen, May. Many other Hawthorn species excellent for all bees.
<i>Eucryphia glutinosa</i>		Brush bush. Major Nectar + Pollen, Aug, Sept.
<i>Halesia tetraptera</i> (syn <i>H. carolina</i>)		Snowdrop tree. Nectar + Pollen, May.
<i>Koeleruteria paniculata</i>		Pride of India. Major Nectar, July–August.
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>		Manuka. Major Nectar + Pollen, June with another flower flush in December. Medicinal
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>		Sorrel tree. For acid soil. Major Nectar + Pollen, July–August. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Prunus avium</i>		Wild cherry. Major Nectar + Pollen, March–April.
<i>Prunus padus</i>		Bird cherry. Major Nectar + Pollen, April–May.
<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>		Hop tree. Nectar, June–July.
<i>Tetradium daniellii</i> (syn <i>Euodia hupehensis</i>)		Bee tree of China. Major Nectar + Pollen, August–October.

FRUIT TREES

<i>Malus domestica</i>		Dessert and Culinary Apples. Nectar + Pollen, mid to late spring. All open-pollinated, hundreds of varieties. Vigorous M25 or standard trees recommended.
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>		Wild crab apple. Nectar + Pollen, May. Original species and used as rootstock.
<i>Mespilus germanica</i>		Medlar. Related to Hawthorn. Major Nectar + Pollen, May–June.
<i>Prunus avium</i>		Bird cherry, gean–wild form. Cultivated form–Sweet Cherry. Major Nectar + Pollen, April–May. Many varieties. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> myrobalan		Cherry plum. Nectar + Pollen, February–April
<i>Prunus cerasus</i>		Acid/Sour cherry. Major Nectar + Pollen, April–May. Naturally vigorous trees. Many varieties.
<i>Prunus domestica</i>		Plums and Gages. Major Nectar + Pollen, April–May. All cultivars benefit from cross-pollination with other varieties.
<i>Prunus dulcis</i>		Sweet Almond. Nectar + Pollen, early spring. Cool climate cultivars benefit from cross-pollination.
<i>Prunus insititia</i>		Gages and Damsons. Nectar + Pollen, March–April. All cultivars benefit from cross-pollination with other varieties.
<i>Pyrus communis</i> var. <i>sativa</i>		Pear. Nectar + Pollen, April–May. Several varieties.

FRUIT BUSHES

<i>Fragaria x ananassa</i>		Garden strawberry. Pollen, April–July.
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>		Wild strawberry. Pollen, May–June. Good ground cover.
<i>Ribes nigrum</i>		Blackcurrant. Major Nectar + Pollen, April–May, honey crop. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Ribes rubrum</i>		Redcurrant, Whitecurrant. Major Nectar + Pollen, April–May. Honey crop. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>		Gooseberry. Major Nectar + Pollen. March–May. Honey crop. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> and hybrids		Blackberry and hybrid berries. Major Nectar + Pollen, May–September.
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>		Raspberry. Major Nectar + Pollen, June–August. Honey crop. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Rubus loganobaccus</i>		Loganberry. Major Nectar + Pollen, June–August. On a par with Raspberry. Excellent for all bees.

SHRUBS

<i>Aralia elata</i> , <i>A. spinosa</i>	◆ ●	Japanese angelica and Hercules Club. Both deciduous, Nectar major, August–September.
<i>Berberis</i> spp., <i>B. darwinii</i>	□ ◆ ◆	Berberis. Range of evergreen species, Nectar + Pollen, April–June.
<i>Buddleja globosa</i>	◆ ◆	Orange ball tree. Nectar, June.
<i>Callicarpa bodinieri</i>	◆	Callicarpa. Nectar, July.
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	◆ ●	Heather, Ling. Evergreen dwarf, Major Nectar + Pollen, August–September. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Ceanothus</i> spp.	□ ◆ ◆ ●	Ceanothus. Range of large evergreen species, Nectar + Pollen, April–November.
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	◆	Buttonbush. Major Nectar, August.
<i>Chaenomeles</i> spp.	□ ◆ ◆	Quince. Nectar + Pollen, February–April.
<i>Cistus</i> spp.	□ ◆ ◆	Sun rose (aka Rock Rose). Range of evergreen species, some but not all hardy, Major Nectar + Pollen, May–July.
<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	◆	Climber. Pollen, December–February.
<i>Clematis montana</i>	□	Climber. Nectar + Pollen, April–May.
<i>Colletia hystrix</i> , <i>C. paradoxa</i>	□ ◆	Nectar, winter and spring. Has vicious spines but a good source of winter nectar.
<i>Cotoneaster</i> spp., <i>C. adpressus</i>	□ ◆	Range of evergreen species, Nectar + Pollen, May–July.
<i>C. conspicuus</i>		
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	□ ◆ ◆	Broom. Pollen, May–June.
<i>Daphne mezereum</i>	□	Nectar. February–March..
<i>Deutzia</i> spp.	◆	Range of deciduous species, Pollen. Summer.
<i>Erica arborea</i> , <i>E. carnea</i>	□ ◆ ◆	Winter heaths. Major nectar, winter and spring, February–April.
<i>Erica cinerea</i>	□ ◆ ◆ ●	Heaths. Bell heath often grows wild with Heather. Major Nectar + Pollen, March–September. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Escallonia macrantha</i>	◆ ◆ ●	One of the few hardy species of this genera, Nectar + Pollen, June–September.
<i>Fremontodendron californicum</i>	◆ ◆	Flannel bush. June gap.
<i>Fuchsia magellanica</i>	◆ ●	Fushia. Nectar, July–September.
<i>Hebe</i> spp., <i>H. elliptica</i>	◆	Range of evergreen species, Nectar + Pollen, July, August.
<i>Hedera helix</i>	●	Ivy. Evergreen climber. Major Nectar + Pollen, September–November. (Does NOT harm trees!) Good ground cover too.
<i>Helianthemum</i> spp., <i>H. nummularium</i>	□ ◆ ◆	Rock Rose. Small evergreen shrub, Pollen, May–July.
<i>Hydrangea petiolaris</i>	◆ ◆	Climbing hydrangea (not the ordinary garden hydrangeas), Nectar + Pollen, June–August.
<i>Hypericum calycinum</i>	◆ ◆ ●	Rose of Sharon. Major Pollen, June–September.
<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>	◆ ◆ ●	Hyssop. Small evergreen, Nectar + Pollen, June–October.
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	□	Holly. Nectar, May.
<i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i>	□ ◆ ◆	Large deciduous shrub, Nectar + Pollen, May–June.
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	□ ◆ ◆	Bay laurel, Nectar + Pollen.
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	◆ ◆	English Lavender. Major Nectar + Pollen, June–August.
<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	◆ ●	Garden privet. Major Nectar, August–September.
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	◆	Wild privet. Major Nectar, July–August.
<i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i>	□ ◆ ◆	Winter-flowering Honeysuckle. Deciduous Nectar + Pollen. December–March.
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i> , <i>M. japonica</i>	□ ◆ ◆	Large evergreen shrub, Nectar + Pollen, November–April.
<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>	◆ ●	Russian sage. Major Nectar + Pollen, July–October.
<i>Philadelphus</i> spp.	◆	Mock orange. Nectar + Pollen, June gap.
<i>Prunus lusitanica</i>	◆ ◆	Portugal laurel, Nectar, June gap.
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	□ ◆ ◆	Firethorn. Major Nectar + Pollen, May–June.
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	□	Flowering ornamental currants. Nectar + Pollen, April.
<i>Rosa</i> spp., <i>R. canina</i>	◆ ◆	Single flowered species like Dogrose. Pollen, June–July.
<i>Sarcococca confusa</i>	□ ◆ ◆	Sweet box. Evergreen. Nectar + Pollen, December–March.
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	◆ ◆	Snowberry. Major Nectar + Pollen, June–August.
<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>	◆ ◆	Wolfberry. Nectar + Pollen, June–August.
<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>	◆ ◆	Coralberry. Nectar + Pollen, June–August.
<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>	◆ ●	Tree germander. Major Nectar + Pollen, July–November.
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	□ ◆ ◆ ◆	Gorse. Major Pollen, February–June.
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	□	Wayfaring tree. Nectar, May.
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	□	Guelder rose. Nectar, May.
<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	□ ◆ ◆	Laurustinus. Pollen, October–April.

PERENNIALS

<i>Achillea filipendulina</i> , <i>A. millefolium</i>	◆ ●	Fern-leaf yarrow and yarrow. Nectar + Pollen, July–September.
<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	◆ ◆ ●	Anise hyssop. Major Nectar, June–October. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	□ ◆ ◆	Bugle. Nectar + Pollen, May–July, good ground cover.
<i>Althaea officinalis</i>	◆ ●	Marshmallow. Major Pollen + some Nectar. July–September.
<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	◆ ◆ ●	Garden anchusa or Italian bugloss. Major Nectar, June–September.
<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>	◆ ◆ ●	Alkanet. Major Nectar, June–September.
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	□	Wood anemone. Pollen, March–May.
<i>Arabis alpina</i>	□	Alpine rock-cress. Pollen + Nectar both major, March–May.
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	□ ◆ ◆	Thrift. Major Nectar, May–July. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Aster</i> spp.	◆ ●	Michaelmas daisy. Major Nectar + Pollen, July–October. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Astrantia maxima</i> , <i>A. major</i>	◆ ◆	Masterwort. Pollen, June–August.
<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i>	□	Major Nectar + Pollen, April–May.
<i>Campanula</i> spp.	◆ ◆ ●	Bellflowers. Major Nectar + Pollen, June–September. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	□ ◆ ◆	Cuckoo flower or Lady's smock. Nectar + Pollen, April–July.
<i>Centaurea montana</i>	◆ ◆ ●	Perennial cornflower. Major Nectar + Pollen, June–September.
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	◆ ◆ ●	Common knapweed. Major Nectar + Pollen, source of honey in Ireland. June–September.
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	◆ ◆ ●	Greater knapweed. Major Nectar + Pollen, June–September.

Mini-key
Spring □
Summer ◆
June gap ◆
Autumn ●
Winter ◆

Dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>)	□♦♦♦●	Native weed deserving a place undisturbed. Major Nectar + Pollen, March–October.
<i>Dictamnus albus</i>	□♦♦♦	Burning bush. Nectar + Pollen, May–July.
<i>Echinops</i> spp.	♦♦♦♦	Globe thistles. Nectar + Pollen, July–August.
<i>Eryngium</i> spp.	♦♦♦♦	Sea-holly. Nectar + Pollen, July–August.
<i>Erysimum</i> spp.	□♦♦♦	Wallflower. Nectar + Pollen, April–June.
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Hemp agrimony. Nectar + Pollen, July–September.
<i>Helenium</i> spp.	♦♦♦♦●	Sneezeweed. Major Nectar + Pollen, June–October.
<i>Gaillardia</i> spp.	♦♦♦♦●	Blanket flower. Nectar + Pollen, June–September.
<i>Galega orientalis</i>	□♦♦♦	Goat's rue. Pollen, May–August.
<i>Geum</i> spp.	□♦♦♦●	Avens, various species. Pollen, May–September.
<i>Geranium phaeum</i>	□♦♦♦●	Dusky cranesbill. Nectar + Pollen, May–September.
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	□♦♦♦●	Meadow cranesbill. Nectar + Pollen, May–September.
<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>	♦♦♦♦	Baby's breath. Nectar, July–August.
<i>Helleborus</i> spp.	□♦♦♦	Hellebore. Nectar+Pollen, December–March.
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	□♦♦♦	St John's Wort. Major Pollen, May–August.
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	♦♦♦♦	Field scabious. Major Nectar + Pollen, July–August.
<i>Leonurus cardiaca</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Motherwort. Nectar, July–October.
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Bird's-foot trefoil. Major Nectar + Pollen, June–September. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Purple loosestrife. Major Nectar + Pollen, June–August.
<i>Malva</i> spp., <i>M. arborea</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Lavatera species and tree mallow. Major Pollen + Nectar, June–September.
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	♦♦♦♦●	White horehound. Major Nectar, June–September. Medicinal.
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Spotted bee balm. Nectar, July–September. Medicinal producing thymol.
<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Native Catnip, Catmint. Major Nectar + Pollen, June–September.
<i>Nepeta racemosa</i> , <i>N. x faassenii</i>	□♦♦♦●	Garden Catmints. Major Nectar + Pollen, May–September.
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	♦♦♦♦	Sainfoin, June gap. Can be dug in after flowering for green manure.
<i>Paeonia</i> spp.	♦♦♦♦	Peony, single flowered forms. Pollen, June–July.
<i>Papaver orientale</i>	□♦♦♦●	Oriental poppy. Major Pollen, May–October.
<i>Polymonium caeruleum</i>	♦♦♦♦	Jacob's ladder. Major Nectar + Pollen. June–August.
<i>Onybrichis viciifolia</i>	□♦♦♦●	Sainfoin. Major Nectar + Pollen, May–September. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Sedum spectabile</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Stonecrop. Major Nectar + Pollen, July–September. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Goldenrod, native spp. Major Nectar + Pollen, July–October. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Stachys recta</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Yellow perennial woundwort. Major Nectar + Pollen, June–October. Honey crop in Europe.
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	♦♦♦♦	Devil's bit scabious. Major Nectar + Pollen, July–August.
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	♦♦♦♦	Tansy. Nectar + Pollen, July–September.
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Wood Sage. Major Nectar + Pollen, July - September.
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	□♦♦♦●	White clover. Regarded as a weed by some, this deserves to be sown with all grasses. Major Nectar + Pollen, May–October. Honey crop. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Verbena bonariensis</i> and spp.	♦♦♦♦●	Argentinean vervain. Nectar + Pollen, July–November.
<i>Veronica longifolia</i> and spp.	□♦♦♦●	Veronica. Major Nectar + Pollen, March–September. Excellent for all bees.
BIENNIALS & ANNUALS		
<i>Alcea rosea</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Hollyhock. Major Pollen + some Nectar, July–September.
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	□♦♦♦●	Borage. Major Nectar + Pollen, April–October. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	♦♦♦♦	Cornflower. Major Nectar + Pollen, June–August. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Chicory. Major Nectar + Pollen, June–October, honey crop.
<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Cosmos. Nectar + Pollen, July–September.
<i>Dipsacus</i> spp.	♦♦♦♦	Teasel, all species. Major Nectar + Pollen. July–August. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	♦♦♦♦	Viper's bugloss. Major Nectar + Pollen, June–July. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Erigeron</i> spp.	♦♦♦♦	Fleabane. Nectar + Pollen, July–August.
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Californian poppy. Pollen, July–September.
<i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i>	♦♦♦♦	Buckwheat. Major Nectar + Pollen, June–August, honey crop.
<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Annual gaillardia. Nectar + Pollen, June–September.
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Sunflower. Nectar + Pollen, July–October. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	□♦♦♦	Sweet rocket. Pollen, May–July.
<i>Iberis umbellata</i>	♦♦♦♦	Candytuft. Nectar + Pollen, July–August.
<i>Limnanthes douglasii</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Poached egg plant. Nectar + Pollen, June–September.
<i>Lobelia maritima</i>	♦♦♦♦	Sweet Alison. Nectar + Pollen, July–August.
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i> , <i>M. albus</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Melilot sweet clover, yellow clover. Major Nectar + Pollen, June–September.
<i>Myosotis</i> spp.	□♦♦♦●	Forget-me-not. Nectar + Pollen (Pollen so minute much is drawn into bees' honey stomach), April–September.
<i>Nemophila menziesii</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Baby-blue-eyes. Easily grown annual, Nectar + Pollen, June–October.
<i>Nigella damascena</i>	□♦♦♦●	Love-in-a-mist. Nectar + Pollen, May–September.
<i>Oenothera biennis</i> , <i>O. glazioviana</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Evening primrose. Pollen, June–September.
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	□♦♦♦●	Common poppy. Major Pollen, May–September.
<i>Perezia multiflora</i>	♦♦♦♦	Perezia. Major Nectar + Pollen, June–July.
<i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i>	□♦♦♦●	Phacelia. Major Nectar + Pollen, April–December.
<i>Reseda odorata</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Mignonette. Major Nectar + Pollen, May–September.
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	♦♦♦♦	Meadow sage. Nectar + Pollen, June–August.
<i>Salvia verbanaca</i>	♦♦♦♦	Wild sage. Nectar + Pollen, June–August.
<i>Scilla sibirica</i>	□♦♦♦	Siberian squill. Nectar. JMarch–April.
<i>Scrophularia</i> spp.	♦♦♦♦●	Figwort. Nectar. June–September, excellent for all bees.
<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	♦♦♦♦●	Golden rod. Nectar. July–September.
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	♦♦♦♦	Lesser trefoil. Major Nectar, June–July.
<i>Verbascum olympicum</i>	♦♦♦♦	Greek verbascum. Major Pollen, June–August.

Mini-key
Spring □
Summer ♦
June gap ♦♦
Autumn ●
Winter ❄

VEGETABLES & CULINARY HERBS

<i>Allium cepa</i>	♦♦	Onion, left to flower. Major Nectar, June–August.
<i>Allium porrum</i>	♦♦	Leek, left to flower. Major Nectar, June–August.
<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	♦♦	Chive, left to flower. Major Nectar, June–August.
<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	♦♦	Asparagus, left to flower. Major Nectar + Pollen June–August.
<i>Brassica</i> spp.	□♦♦	Brassica species left to flower, Nectar + Pollen, April–August.
<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> , <i>C. maxima</i>	♦♦	Marrow, courgette, pumpkin. Major Nectar + Pollen (especially large pollen grains; sought after) June–August. Excellent for all bees.
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	♦♦♦	Cardoon. Nectar + Pollen, June–September.
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i> var <i>scolymus</i>	♦♦♦	Artichokes, left to flower. Nectar + Pollen, June–September.
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	♦♦	Fennel. Nectar + Pollen, June–August.
<i>Mentha spicata</i>	□♦♦♦	Spearmint. Nectar + Pollen, May–October.
<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	♦♦♦	Basil, flowering encouraged by not picking leaves or stems. Nectar + Pollen, July–September.
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	♦♦♦	Wild marjoram. Nectar, July–September.
<i>Phaseolus coccineus</i>	□♦♦	Runner bean. Nectar + Pollen, March–July.
<i>Raphanus</i> spp.	♦♦	Radish. Major Nectar + Pollen, June–July.
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	□♦♦	Rosemary. Nectar + Pollen, April–June.
<i>Salvia officinalis</i>	♦♦	Sage. Nectar, June–August.
<i>Satureja montana</i>	♦♦	Savory, perennial. Nectar + Pollen, June–July.
<i>Thymus polytrichus</i> , <i>T. vulgaris</i>	□♦♦	Wild and garden thyme. Nectar, May–August.
<i>Thymus</i> x <i>citriodorus</i>	♦♦♦	Lemon thyme. Nectar, May–August.
<i>Vicia faba</i>	□♦♦	Broad bean. Major Nectar + Pollen, March–July.

BULBS, RHIZOMES & TUBERS

<i>Camassia</i> spp.	□♦♦	Nectar + Pollen, April–June.
<i>C. cusickii</i> , <i>C. leichtlinii</i> , <i>C. quamash</i>		
<i>Chionodoxa luciliae</i>	□	Glory of the snow. Nectar + Pollen, March–May.
<i>Crocus</i> spp.	□♦	Species and cultivars all provide major Pollen. February–March.
<i>Dahlia</i> spp.	♦♦♦	Single varieties such as 'Happy Single' and 'Dark Angel' series. Nectar + Pollen, July–September.
<i>Eranthis hyemalis</i>	□♦	Winter aconite. Major Nectar + Pollen, January–March. Excellent to establish in vicinity of beehives.
<i>Fritillaria imperialis</i>	□	Crown imperial. Showy garden plant, major Nectar, March–May.
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	□♦	Snowdrop. Pollen, February–March.
<i>Galtonia candicans</i>	♦♦♦	Summer hyacinth. Nectar + Pollen, August–September.
<i>Leucojum vernum</i>	□♦	Snowflake. Pollen, February–April.
<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i>	□♦♦	Solomon's Seal. Nectar + Pollen, May–June.
<i>Muscari</i>	□	Grape hyacinth. Nectar + Pollen, March–May.

Mini-key
Spring □
Summer ♦
June gap ♦♦
Autumn ♦♦♦
Winter ♦♦♦♦

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