

# Plants bees love

Courtesy of Bees' Needs, and by no means comprehensive

## 1. Single species:

### Legumes

Alfalfa – *Medicago sativa* L.

Sweet clovers – *Melilotus alba* and *Melilotus officinalis*

Trifolium – *Trifolium repens*

### Non-Legumes

Buckwheat – *Fagopyrum esculentum*

Phacelia – *Phacelia tanacetifolia*

## 2. Multi-cut Legumes:

Alfalfa – *Medicago sativa* L

Sainfoin – *Onobrychis vicifolia*

Birds Foot Trefoil – *Lotus corniculatus*

Clover mix

## 3. Mixed multi-cut

Add buckwheat and phacelia to one or more of the legumes above

## 4. Blooming bee pasture: annual grasses and flowers

40% phacelia – *Phacelia tanacetifolia*

25% buckwheat – *Fagopyrum exculentum*

7% white mustard – *Sinapis alba*

6% coriander – *Coriandrum sativum*

5% calendula – *Calendula officianalis*

5% black cumin – *Nigelia sativa*

3% mallow – *Malva sylvestris*

1% borage – *Borago officinalis*

(This list was developed in Germany.)

## 5. Mixed flowers and herbs: small “managed” patches

Anise hyssop – *Agastache* spp.

Alyssum – *Lobularia maritime*

Aster – *Aster* spp.

Boneset (Joe-Pye Weed) – *Eupatorium* spp.

Borage – *Borago officinalis*  
Butterfly weed – *Asclepias tuberosa*  
Catnip – *Nepeta cataria*  
Chamomile – *Matricaria recutita*  
Coneflower – *Rudbeckia* spp.  
Crocus – *Crocus vernus*  
Dandelion – *Taraxacum* spp.  
Dead Nettle/Henbit – *Lamium* spp.  
Goldenrod – *Solidago* spp.  
Hyssop – *Hyssopus officinalis*  
Lavender – *Lavandula* spp.  
Lemon basil – *Ocimum basilicum*  
Lespedeza (Bush clover) – *Lespedeza* spp.  
Mallow – *Malva sylvestris*  
Marjoram – *Origanum vulgare*  
Milkweed – *Asclepias* spp.  
Mint – *Mentha* spp.  
Motherwort – *Leonurus cardiaca*  
Mountain-mint – *Pycnathemum pilosum*  
Mustard – *Brassica* spp.  
Rosemary – *Rosmarinus officinalis*  
Rue – *Ruta graveolens*  
Sage – *Salvia* spp.  
Sunflower – *Helianthus* spp.  
Thistles – *Cirsium* spp.  
Thyme – *Thymus* spp.  
Yarrow – *Achillea millefolium*

6. Field and Forest: hedgerow choices

Shrubs

Assorted berries: e.g. Highbush blueberry – *Vaccinium corymbosum*; Raspberry/Blackberry – *Rubus* spp.  
Blue spirea – *Caryopteris incana*  
Buttonbush – *Cephalanthus occidentalis*  
Chastebush – *Vitex negundo*  
Elder – *Sambucus* spp.  
Gallberry – *Ilex glabra*  
Groundsel – *Baccharis* spp.  
Holly – *Ilex* spp,  
Mock Orange – *Philadelphus indorus*

Spicebush – *Lindera benzoin*  
Sweet Pepperbush – *Clethra alnifolia*  
Witch hazel – *Hamamelis virginiana*

Trees

Assorted fruit trees: Apple – *Malus* spp, Peach – *Prunus persica*, Cherry – *Prunus* spp., etc.  
Alder – *Alnus* spp.  
Black Gum – *Nyssa sylvatica*  
Black Locust – *Robinia pseudoacacia*  
Chestnut – *Aesculus* spp.  
Goldenrain Tree – *Koelreuteria paniculata*  
Hawthorn – *Crataegus* spp.  
Hazelnut – *Corlus americana*  
Linden – *Tilia* spp.  
Persimmon – *Diospyros virginiana*  
Pussy Willow – *Salix discolor*  
Redbud – *Cercis canadensis*  
Serviceberry – *Amerlanchier arborea*  
Sourwood – *Oxydendrum arboreum*  
Swamp maple – *Acer rubrum*  
Tulip Poplar – *Liriodendron tulipifera*  
Willow – *Salix* spp.