

Creating Colorful Garden Habitats that Support Native Ohio Bees

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Ohio is home to 500 native bee species. The bees include social bees like bumble bees, solitary bees including mining bees, and cavity-nesting bees such as mason bees. These pollinators play important roles in supporting both agriculture and native plants in Ohio.

Gardeners can support native bees by planting an inviting garden of native flowering plants of different shapes and sizes. At the same time, plantings will provide an attractive, colorful landscape spring through fall. A nearby, dependable water source is also important for bees of all kinds. Consider adding the following plants to your garden:



Photo by Lori Swihart

Native Ohio Perennials for Native Ohio Bees

Common Name	Latin Name	Color of blossom	Bloom time
Hyssop*	Agastache spp.	Pale Purple/Pink	Late summer - fall
Milkweed*	Asclepias spp.	Pink	Late May - July
Purple coneflower*	Echinacea purpurea	Pink	June-August
Rattlesnake Master	Eryngium yuccifolium	Greenish White	June - Sept
Common boneset	Eupatorium perfoliatum	White	August - Sept
Joe-Pye Weed*	Eutrochium spp.	Purple	July - Sept
Wild bergamot*	Monarda spp.	Light Pink/Purple	June - Sept
Beardtongue*	Penstemon digitalis	White	Early to Mid spring
Mountain mint*	Pycnanthemum spp.	White	June - Sept
Gray coneflower	Ratibida pinnata	Yellow	June-Oct
Aster*	Symphyotrichum spp.	Bright Purple	August - Oct.
Wingstem	Verbesina alternifolia	Yellow	August - Oct.
Ironweed	Vernonia spp.	Pink/Purple	July-Oct
Culver's root	Veronicastrum virginicum	White	July - Sept
Goldenrod*	Solidago spp.	Yellow	July - Oct
Golden Alexander*	Zizia aurea	Yellow	May - June
Cardinal Flower (lobelia blue & red)	Lobelia cardinalis	Red	July-Sept

*Planting at the Licking County Master Gardener Volunteer learning gardens.

Sources:

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<https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/ent-85>

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