

ANISE HYSSOP (*Agastache foeniculum*)



Purple flowers provide huge amount of nectar and pollen all day long. Bumble bees, and smaller native bees, butterflies, skippers, and hummingbirds visit for the rich nectar during the day.

At night you can observe moths fueling up on nectar.

Birds love the seeds in winter.

Growing conditions:

Full to part sun, drought tolerant, any soil, 1.5 m
Blooms all summer and is pretty in any garden
Crushed leaves have a licorice scent, use for tea

**Great Pollinator Plant
Even for Night Flying
Insects**

PURPLE CONEFLOWER (*Asclepias Incarnata*)



The gorgeous flowers provide rich nectar and attract many different kinds of butterflies and our ruby-throated hummingbird. Long- and short-tongued bees and a huge variety of insects visit the flowers as well for pollen.

Birds devour the seeds in the winter.

Bees overwinter and nest in the hollow stems

Growing conditions:

Full to part sun, medium moisture, clay, loam, sand
Longlasting flowers all summer, medicinal plant
Is a great addition to any garden

Great Nectar Plant
Seeds for Birds
Hollow Stems

GREEN HEADED-CONEFLOWER (*Rudbeckia laciniata*)



Supports large amounts of native bees.

Feeds the Ratibida pollen Specialist Bee.

Goldfinches and other songbirds feed on the small sunflower-like seeds during winter.

Growing conditions:

Full to part sun, any moisture, any soil, 2m -3m tall

Blooms all summer into fall.

Stunning plant great for part shade and moist areas.

Larval Host Plant
Supports Specialist
Bee

Cup Plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*)



Cup plants form cups with their large leaves and collect water that is used by birds. Attracts many bees and beneficial insects, high wildlife value. Big seeds provide food for songbirds in winter.

Growing conditions:

Sun to part shade, any soil, medium to wet. A big plant up to 3 m tall, blooms in summer. Great for challenging spots, can get aggressive in ideal conditions.

Larval Host Plant
Pollen Specialist Bee
Provides Water

Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium sp.*)



Large flowerheads attract bees and butterflies and offer copious amount of nectar.

Bumblebees also visit for pollen.

Birds devour the seeds in the winter.

Bees overwinter and nest in the hollow stems

Growing conditions:

Full to part sun, medium moisture to wet, clay, loam, sand
Showy, longlasting fowers all summer.

Up to 2 meter tall plant looks stunning in any garden.

Larval Host Plant
Great Nectar Plant

BLUE VERVAIN (*Verbena hastata*)



Bumble bees, many different native bees, butterflies, skippers, the ruby-throated hummingbird and a huge variety of other beneficial insects love the abundant nectar.

Songbirds feed on the abundant seeds in winter.

Growing conditions:

Full to part sun, any moisture including wet, any soil
Candelabra-like, long blooming purple flowers all summer
Is a great addition to any garden

Larval Host Plant
Specialist Bee

Virgin Bower (*Clematis virginiana*)



Lots of beneficial insects love the nectar from its small white flowers.

The seeds provide food for songbirds all winter.

The seedheads have long whiskers that look stunning throughout winter.

Growing conditions:

Sun to shade, any soil, medium to wet. This clematis is a twining vine up to 9 m long. Can also be used as great groundcover. Blooms in July and August.

**Great Nectar Plant
For Tough Places**

SWAMP MILKWEED (*Asclepias Incarnata*)



Milkweeds are the only plants the caterpillars of the Monarch butterfly can eat. Swamp milkweed is a preferred milkweed. This Monarch butterfly is laying eggs on the underside of a leaf. The gorgeous flowers provide rich nectar and attract many butterflies, bees and a huge variety of insects.

Growing conditions:

Full to part sun, medium to moist soil, clay, loam, sand
Beautiful pink flowers in early summer, doesn't spread
Is a great addition to any garden, vanilla-like fragrance

**Larval Host Plant
For Monarch
Butterflies**

NEW ENGLAND ASTER (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)



The abundance and flat shape of the flowers make them a preferred nectar source for butterflies and moths in fall. Very potent nectar and pollen is accessible to any kind of bee.

Great nutritional value of the pollen and nectar charges monarchs for their trip to Mexico and fattens up bees for their hibernation.

Seeds are loved by songbirds in winter.

Growing conditions:

Full to part sun, moist or medium, any soil
Hundreds of purple flowers in the fall, aromatic
Is a great addition to any garden

Larval host plant
Specialist Mining Bee
Late Season Nectar

WILD BERGAMOT (*Monarda fistulosa*)



Bee magnet! Tubular flowers attract hummingbirds, moths and butterflies. The nectar replenishes throughout the day by opening new flowers. Specialist bees can only use bergamot pollen to provision their brood cells. Huge amount of tiny seeds feed songbirds in winter.

Growing conditions:
Full to part sun, any moisture, any soil, 1 m high
Blooms all summer
The leaves can be added to tea.

Larval Host Plant
Monarda Specialist
Bee
Superb Nectar Plant

Zigzag Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*)

Blue-Stemmed Goldenrod for Shade (*Solidago caesia*)



Goldenrods provide the highest wildlife value. Support over 100 species of butterflies and moths as larval host plant. Many specialist bees can only use their pollen. Highest quality nectar and pollen help bees to hibernate and strengthen Monarchs for their flight. Birds love the seeds.

Growing conditions:

Part to full shade, any soil, any moisture.

Goldenrod does not cause allergies since the pollen is big and sticky and can not be transported by the wind.

It is the wind pollinated ragweed that causes the allergies.

Larval Host Plant
Specialist Bees
Super-Charged
Pollen and Nectar

Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)



Milkweed leaves are the only plant leaves the caterpillars of the Monarch butterfly can eat. The stunning orange flowers provide rich nectar and attract many butterflies, bees and a huge variety of insects.

Growing conditions:

Full sun, well drained soil, drought tolerant, loam, sand
Flowers early in summer, doesn't spread
Is a great addition to any garden

**Host Plant For
Monarch Butterflies**

Goldenrods for sunny areas (*Solidago sp.*)



Goldenrods have extremely high wildlife value. They are the single most beneficial flower species. Support over 100 species of butterflies and moths as host plant. Support many specialist bees.

Provide highest quality nectar and pollen to bees and butterflies. Seeds provide food for songbirds in winter.

Growing conditions:

There is a species of goldenrod for any garden condition. Even for tough spots like heavy clay or extremely dry area. Only Canada Goldenrod spreads aggressively.

Larval Host Plant
Pollen Specialist Bees
Super-Charged Pollen and Nectar

FOXGLOVE BEARDTONGUE (*Pentstemon digitalis*)



Supports specialist bees, narrow tubular flowers attract hummingbirds and small to medium sized long-tongued bees, and other beneficial insects. Blooms before most prairie plants. Huge amount of tiny seeds feed songbirds in winter.

Growing conditions:

Full to part sun, medium moisture, clay, loam, sand
Flowers in June and July, basal leaves turn purple in fall
Resistant to deer and rabbits

Specialist bee
Early Nectar
Seeds for Birds



Sunflowers are ecological powerhouses. They support 77 different caterpillar species of butterflies and moths as larval host plants.

The nectar and pollen attracts a high number of bees and butterflies.

The seeds are great forage for birds.

Picture:

Two sleeping male bumblebee bees