

BEE FRIENDLY GARDENING: What to plant and other tips.

We can't live without honeybees. Many crops of vegetables, fruit and flowers depend heavily on pollination by bees. It is estimated that without bees we would lose at least two thirds of our food. In some country's bee numbers are declining. They struggle to cope with new diseases, reduced sources of nectar and pollen and pesticides.



However, gardeners and owners of lifestyle blocks can do a lot to help bees and their gardens to thrive.

Provide clean drinking water and food by planting bee-friendly plants:

- Plant a variety of bee friendly plants to provide food throughout the seasons.
- Provide fresh, spray free water in a shallow dish with clean stones or gravel.

Take care with the use of pesticides and insecticides:

- Don't use sprays in your garden, especially pesticides and insecticides
- OR if you do spray:
 - Avoid systemic insecticides that enter the sap of the plants.
 - Avoid garden products (sprays, coated seed etc) that contain: **Neonicotinoids, acetamiprid, imidacloprid, thiacloprid and thiamethoxam**
 - Avoid spraying when flowers, shrubs, trees are in bloom.
 - Don't spray plants that bees are foraging on.
 - Spray late in the evening when bees have gone back to the hive.

Some common garden plants that provide nectar or pollen or both:

ANNUALS	PERENNIALS	HERBS	VEGETABLES
Alyssum	Agastache	Angelica	Flower heads of:
Asters	Aquilegia	Anise	Beans
Calliopsis	Buttercups	Basil	Peas
Chamomile	Cardoon	Bergamot (Bee balm)	Brassicac (all types)
Coreopsis	Clematis	Borage	Carrots
Cornflower	Crocuses	Calamint	Parsnips
Cosmos	Dahlia	Catmint (Catnip)	Cucumber
Echium Blue Bedder	Delphinium	Chives	Garlic
French Marigold	Eryngium (Sea Holly)	Comfrey	Leeks
Meadowfoam	Foxglove	Coriander	Pumpkin
Mignonette	Geraniums	Cowslip	Squash
Nasturtium	Globe thistle	Echinacea	Zucchini
Phacelia	Heleniums	Fennel	
Poppies (all types)	Hollyhocks	Hyssop	FRUIT
Rudbeckia	Hyacinth	Lavender	Berry Fruits:
Salvia	Lysimachia Beaujolais	Lemon Balm	Raspberry
Scabiosa	Penstemons	Marjoram	Currants
Sweet William	Phlomis (Lemon Puffs)	Mint (all types)	Pip Fruits:
Sunflower Evening Sun	Roses	Oregano	Apples
Sweet Peas	Rudbeckia	Pennyroyal	Pears
Zinnias	Scabiosa	Rocket	Stone Fruits:
	Sedum	Rosemary	Apricots, Peaches,
		Sage	Nectarines, Plums, ...
		Summer savory	Citrus Fruits:
		Thyme (all types)	Lemons, Oranges, ...
		Winter savory	Hazelnuts

Common Native Plants that provide Nectar or Pollen or Both

Common Name	Botanical Name	Flowering Season	Mature Size	Growth Rate	Source of Nectar/Pollen	Good for Shelter/Riparian
Bush lawyer	<i>Rubus cissoides</i>	Aug-Oct	Vine	Slow	N & P	
Cabbage tree	<i>Cordyline australis</i>	Oct-Dec	17m	Slow	N	S & R
Corokia	<i>Corokia (many species)</i>	Oct-Feb	3m	Med	N	S & R
Clematis	<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	Aug-Oct	Vine	Slow	N	
Five finger	<i>Pseudopanax arboreous</i>	July-Sept	6m	Fast	N	S & R
Flax	<i>Phormium (many species)</i>	Oct-Jan	3m	Slow	N	S & R
Hebe	<i>Hebe (over 100 species)</i>	Sep-Apr	Varies	Fast	N & P	
Hinau	<i>Elaeocarpus dentalus</i>	Oct-Nov	10m	Slow	N & P	
Horoeka (Lancewood)	<i>Pseudopanax crossifolius</i>	Jan-Apr	15m	Slow	N & P	S & R
Horopito (Pepperwood)	<i>Pseudowintera sp.</i>	Aug-Dec	2-8m	Slow	N	
Kamaha	<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>	Nov-Jan	20m	Slow	N & P	S
Kanuka	<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	Nov-Feb	15m	Slow	N & P	S
Fuchsia (kotukutuku)	<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>	Aug-Dec	10m	Slow	N & P	
Kowhai	<i>Sophora (several species)</i>	Aug-Oct	12m	Slow	N & P	S & R
Lacebark	<i>Hoheria (several species)</i>	Apr-May	12m	Med	N	S & R
Manuka (including ornamental species)	<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	Nov-Apr	12m	Med-Fast	N & P	S & R
Mahoe (whiteywood)	<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	Nov-Feb	10m	Med	N & P	S & R
Matagouri	<i>Discaria toumatou</i>	Oct-Jan	6m	Slow	N & P	
Matai (black pine)	<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>	Oct-Nov	15m	Slow	P	
Marble Leaf	<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	Dec-Jan	6m	Med	N & P	S & R
Mingimingi	<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>	Sep-Nov	6m	Slow	N	S & R
Ngaio	<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	Sep-Dec	10m	Slow	N & P	
Olearia	<i>Olearia (many species)</i>	Dec-Apr	6m	Fast	N & P	S & R
Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum (many species)</i>	Aug-Nov	8m	Med	N & P	S & R
Poataniwha	<i>Melicope simplex</i>	Sep-Nov	4m	Med	N & P	S & R
Rata	<i>Metrosideros umbellata</i>	Jan	20m	Slow	N & P	
Ribbonwood	<i>Plagianthus Regius</i>	Sep-Oct	15m	Fast	N & P	S & R
Rimu	<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	Sep-Oct	30m	Slow	P	
Seven Finger	<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	Feb-Mar	8m	Med	N	S & R
Supplejack	<i>Ripogonum scan dens</i>	Nov-Jan	Vine	Slow	N	
Three Finger	<i>Pseudopanax colensoi</i>	Oct-Mar	5m	Fast	N & P	S & R
Totara	<i>Podocarpus totara</i>	Sep-Oct	15m	Slow	P	
Weeping Matipo	<i>Myrsine divaricata</i>	Jun-Nov	3m	Med	N	S & R
Wineberry	<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>	Oct-Dec	8m	Fast	N & P	S & R

A few non-native shrubs & trees for honeybees

Bottlebrush (Callistemon sp.)
 Cherry Blossom (Prunus sp.)
 Tree Mallow (Lavatera sp.)
 Strawberry Tree (Arbutus unedo)
 Tree Lucerne (Tagasaste)
 Sweet Box (Sarcococca sp.)

Willow (Salix sp.) but don't plant crack willow!
 Viburnum (various)
 Horse Chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum)
 Leatherwood (Eucryphia cordifolia)
 Camellia Sasanqua (& other open flowered sp.)

See Also: <https://www.treesforbees.org.nz>