

Habitat Planting

FOR BEES

FULL SUN & PART SHADE, DRY SOIL

-3 or more hours of sunlight
-well-drained soil (dries out quickly between rains)



- 50 PLANTS, 13 SPECIES -

All species featured in this design are **LOCALLY NATIVE** to best support bees, pollinators, and other wildlife.

Planting Dimensions:

18 INCH SPACING
Area Covered: ~100 sq ft (16 ft by 8 ft)

12 INCH SPACING
Area Covered: ~43 sq ft (11 ft by 5 ft)

Please feel free to adjust the size, spacing, and planting arrangement as fits your area!
Once planted, these species will spread to fill in the space and will find their own natural arrangement, supporting bees and other pollinators with a healthy habitat!



3 Butterflyweed
Asclepias tuberosa



3 Wavy-leaved Aster
Symphyotrichum undulatum



3 Hoary Mountain Mint
Pycnanthemum incanum



3 Small's Ragwort
Packera anonyma



9 Little Bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium



4 Grey Goldenrod
Solidago nemoralis



4 Yarrow
Achillea borealis



4 Purple Lovegrass
Eragrostis spectabilis



5 Lyre-leaf Sage
Salvia lyrata



4 Black-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia hirta



2 Upland Ironweed
Vernonia glauca



3 Indian Grass
Sorghastrum nutans



3 Hyssop-leaved Thoroughwort
Eupatorium hyssopifolium

PREPARING YOUR SITE FOR PLANTING

When turning a section of lawn into a habitat planting, remove any non-native grass. This can be done by digging it up, tilling the area, or smothering a section of grass with cardboard or burlap. Use a hand tool to break up heavily-compacted soil right around your planting hole. No amendments or fertilizers should be added. If there are any natives already present in the area (such as Common Blue Violets), leave them undisturbed and plant around them. The bees will thank you!



LOCALLY NATIVE PLANTS FEATURED IN THIS DESIGN:



Butterflyweed

A short, non-aggressive milkweed that is used by halictid bees, leaf-cutting bees, and more. The orange flowers bloom in May-August. Grows 1-2 ft tall. Deer resistant.



Wavy-leaved Aster

This aster has 1 inch wide purple flowers. Blooms in August-November and supports late-flying bees. Grows 2-3 ft tall. Alternative deer resistant option is Maryland Golden Aster (Chrysopsis mariana)



Hoary Mountain Mint

The white flowers have purple markings and are a favorite among pollinators: bees, butterflies, wasps, flies, and more. The silvery leaves are aromatic. Blooms July-August. Grows 2-3 ft tall. Deer resistant.



Small's Ragwort

The many yellow daisy-like flowers bloom in springtime and attract small native bees, including cuckoo bees and halictid bees. Leaves are long and narrow. Blooms in May-June. Grows 1-2 ft tall. Deer resistant.



Little Bluestem

A clumping grass with blue/green foliage in summer that turns copper in fall. It keeps an upright structure in winter and offers a place for overwintering bumble bee queens. Grows 3-4 ft tall. Deer resistant.



Yarrow

The flat-topped heads of Yarrow consist of many white flowers and have a long bloomtime that bees find attractive. Leaves are lacy and fern-like. Flowers in April-November. Grows 2-3 ft tall. Deer resistant.



Purple Lovegrass

A short grass with pink seedheads in August-October. Native clumping grasses are used by bumble bee queens to overwinter. Grows 1-2 ft tall. Deer resistant.



Lyre-leaf Sage

The light purple flowers are used by mason bees, leaf-cutting bees, and carpenter bees. Leaves are a semi-evergreen rosette at the base of the plant. Blooms in April-May. Grows 1-2 ft tall. Deer resistant.



Grey Goldenrod

Specialist bees, bumble bees, and solitary bees use the nectar and pollen of this short, non-aggressive goldenrod. The showy yellow flowers bloom in branching clusters in August-October. Grows 2 ft tall. Deer resistant.

Why Create a Habitat Planting for Bees?

Native bee populations are declining due to habitat loss, pesticides, and introduced diseases. These important pollinators need locally native plants in order to fulfill their life cycle, and even a small patch of natives can make a big difference!





Black-eyed Susan

The cheerful blooms attract a wide variety of bees, including some types of andrenid bees that specialize in using this plant. Flowers in May-July. Grows 2-3 ft tall. Alternative deer resistant option is Spotted St. John's Wort (Hypericum punctatum).



Upland Ironweed

This bushy-structured plant has lance-shaped leaves and pink/purple flowers that attract many bees, including bumble bee species. Blooms June-September. Grows 4-5 ft tall. Alternative deer resistant option is Whorled Rosinweed (Silphium asteriscus).



Indian Grass

Indian Grass is a showy warm season bunching grass that produces feathery bronze plumes in September and November. Bumble bee queens use its stems as a nesting site and to overwinter. Grows 4-6 ft tall. Deer resistant.



Hyssop-leaved Thoroughwort

Long-tongued and short-tongued bees use the white flat-topped flowers of this species. Its delicate foliage consists of narrow leaves that whorl around the stem. Flowers in August-October. Grows 2-3 ft tall. Deer resistant.



Seedheads & Stems

It's essential to leave stems standing through winter. The seeds are used by wildlife and will disperse to help native plant populations. The dead stems will become overwintering sites for bees and other native insects.

Consider cutting back dead stems in March or leaving them up year round. If cutting back dead stems, scatter these stems on the ground in your planting to decompose or place in a loose pile outside. If left up year round, old stems will soon be replaced with new growth.

Tips for a Habitat Planting

-CHOOSE LOCAL GENOTYPES for your planting instead of commercialized strains of native plants.

-WATERING: Check plants for 2-3 weeks after planting—or a few weeks longer if planting in hot, dry weather. Water only as necessary during this time. Once established, plants should not receive supplemental water. Note: Native plants that thrive in dry conditions don't want wet soil, even directly after planting. These can easily be over-watered and will only do well in dry soil, even while getting established.

-FALLEN LEAVES AS MULCH: Skip wood chips. Fallen leaves should be left among your habitat planting undisturbed, providing nutrients and maintaining moisture levels for native plants, while creating shelter for wildlife and insects.

-WEEDING OUT NON-NATIVES: Check occasionally for non-native intruders, hand pulling any that appear. Be careful not to weed out seedlings of native plants or natives that are coming in on their own!

-ENCOURAGE NATURE: Nature is constantly changing—and so should your bee habitat! Plants will become more or less dominant, moving around as your corridor develops. The initial layout of your planting is a starting point: your goal is to reintroduce these species —and then step back and let native plants do their work.

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Plants in this design are available as 1 qt pots or in a mixed species plug tray from this nursery.