

Habitat Planting

FOR BEES

WOODLAND SETTING, DRY SOIL

-Light shade (dappled/filtered light) to 3 hours of sun
-Well-drained soil (dries out quickly between rains)

- 53 PLANTS, 10 SPECIES -

optional fence or trellis for native vines



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

Planting Dimensions:

18 INCH SPACING

Area Covered: ~104 sq ft (22 ft by 12 ft)

12 INCH SPACING

Area Covered: ~47 sq ft (15 ft by 8 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!



4 Grey Beardtongue
Penstemon canescens



10 Blue-stemmed Goldenrod
Solidago caesia



5 Rattlesnake Weed
Hieracium venosum



3 Virginia Creeper
Parthenocissus quinquefolia
(optional vine)



2 Naked-flowered Tick Trefoil
Hylodesmum nudiflorum



6 American Coral Bells
Heuchera americana



8 Blue Wood Aster
Symphyotrichum cordifolium



8 Bottlebrush Grass
Elymus hystrix



3 Woodland Sunflower
Helianthus divaricatus



4 Bowman's Root
Gillenia trifoliata

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 American Plantain), leave them undisturbed and plant around them. The bees will thank you!



LOCALLY NATIVE PLANTS FEATURED IN THIS DESIGN:



American Coral Bells

Green or reddish bell-shaped flowers bloom in an airy formation on stalks. These flowers are used by many small bees, including Halictid Bees. Blooms April-June. Grows 1-2 ft tall.



Grey Beardtongue

Grey Beardtongue's tubular flowers are an early nectar source for many species of bees. One mason bee, *Osmia distincta*, is a specialist, only using Penstemon species. Blooms May-July. Grows 2 ft tall.



Blue Wood Aster

The light purple flowers are mid-sized and bloom in clusters. Its main pollinators are bees, though many other insects visit including butterflies and beetles. Blooms September-October. Grows 2-3 ft tall.



Rattlesnake Weed

The bright yellow flowers are used by small native bees and bloom on airy stems. Its leaves grow in a rosette and have striking red/purple veins during certain times of the year. Blooms in April-July. Grows 1-2 ft tall.



Blue-stemmed Goldenrod

Bumble bees especially love the yellow flowers of Blue-stemmed Goldenrod that bloom in clusters around the central stem and offer a late season nectar source. Blooms August-October. Grows 2-3 ft tall.



Naked-flowered Tick Trefoil

This species has leaves in a group of 3 and a slender spike of pink flowers. Since the blooms don't contain nectar, bees visit to collect pollen instead. Blooms in July-August. Grows 1-2 ft tall.



Bottlebrush Grass

This cool season woodland grass has very textured, airy heads that resemble bottlebrushes. Bumble bee queens use native clumping grass to overwinter. Produces seedheads in May-August. Grows 3-4 ft tall.



Bowman's Root

A bushy plant that has serrated leaves that turn a reddish color in autumn. Its white or pink-tinged flowers have narrow petals and are mainly used by bees. Blooms in April-June. Grows 2-3 ft tall.



Woodland Sunflower

Woodland Sunflowers have leaves that are roughly textured and opposite each other along their stems. Their bright yellow blooms attract both long and short tongued bees. This species spreads by roots to form colonies. Blooms in June-August. Grows 4-6 ft tall.



Virginia Creeper

The compound leaves of Virginia Creeper consist of five leaflets. In fall, the green leaves turn a maroon color and a brilliant scarlet. The greenish flowers are used by a multitude of bees, including cuckoo bees and leaf-cutting bees. Blooms May-July.

WHY CREATE A HABITAT PLANTING?



Native bee populations are declining due to habitat loss, pesticides, and introduced diseases. Locally native plants are essential for their life cycle, and even a small patch of natives can make a big difference!

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.

-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.



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.

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Plants in this design are available from this nursery.