Habitat Planting
FOR BEES

WOODLAND SETTING, MEDIUM SOIL

-Light shade (dappled/filtered light) to 3 hours of sun
-Intermediate moisture/mesic; the soil drains easily while still holding a sufficient amount of moisture for plants



- 53 PLANTS, 12 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: ~98 sq ft (14 ft by 7 ft)

12 INCH SPACING
Area Covered: ~45 sq ft (10 ft by 4.5 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!



2 Wild Geranium
Geranium maculatum



7 Path Rush
Juncus tenuis



3 Aniseroot
Osmorhiza longistylis



3 White Snakeroot
Ageratina altissima



3 Wild Hydrangea
Hydrangea arborescens



3 Wild Basil
Clinopodium vulgare



6 Thimbleweed
Anemone virginiana



8 White Wood Aster
Eurybia divaricata



2 Blue-stemmed Goldenrod
Solidago caesia

OPTIONAL SHRUBS



9 Bottlebrush Grass
Elymus hystrix



3 Star Chickweed
Stellaria pubera



4 Wild Strawberry
Fragaria virginiana

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:



Aniseroot

Aniseroot is named for its ornately cut leaves that are anise scented. This woodland species displays umbels of white flowers that are used by masked bees, mason bees, and others. Blooms April-May. Grows 2-3 ft tall.



Wild Strawberry

A groundcover with white flowers that spreads by runners. These flowers bloom early in the year and are followed by juicy, red berries. Used by Little Carpenter Bees, Mason Bees, and more. Blooms April-June. Grows 4-7” tall



Wild Geranium

The five-petaled pink/purple flowers are around 1” wide. Its leaves are palmate. Wild Geranium is used by various pollinators, including a specialist oligolectic bee: Andrena distans. Blooms April-June. 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.



Thimbleweed

Named after its cylindrical seedheads that resemble thimbles. The five-petaled flowers are 1” wide and attract small bees, including Plasterer Bees. Blooms May-July. Grows 2-3 ft tall.



Wild Basil

A member of the mint family. Bumble bees are a key visitor of Wild Basil's flower. The blooms are arranged in an airy habit on large, round heads. Blooms July-September. Grows 1 ft tall.



White Snakeroot

The white fuzzy-looking flowers of this species bloom in airy clusters. They are visited by many types of pollinating bees and butterflies. Blooms in August-October. Grows 2-3 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.



Common Blue Violet

These violets attract spring flying bees, including a specialist, Violet Andrenid Bee. The plants form a mounding structure with rounded leaves. Blooms March-June. Grows 6-8 inches tall.

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!





White Wood Aster

White Wood Asters have flat-topped clusters of flowers. Plants have a low-growing, sprawling habit with heart-shaped leaves and dark-colored, wiry stems. The flowers are used as a late source of food for bees. Blooms August-October. Grows 1-2 ft tall.



Path Rush

Path Rush is a short mounding species with wiry stems. Most of its growth is done in cool weather. This species provides year round structure and shelter for wildlife and pollinators. 6-20 inches tall.

Wild Hydrangea

Optional Shrub



The flattish white blooms of Wild Hydrangea consist of many small flowers and sometimes host a few showy white panicles. This 3 to 5 foot shrub has an airy form. Cavity nesting bees use the pithy stems of previous years' growth, the queens forming compartments to lay their eggs. These eggs hatch into larvae that remain in the stem through winter, emerging the next spring. Also called Sevenbark for the way its older bark exfoliates. Blooms in May-July.



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.

-**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 from this nursery.