

Habitat Planting

FOR BEES

WOODLAND SETTING, MOIST SOIL

-light shade (dappled/filtered light) to 3 hours of sun
-damp soil (holds moisture longer than other locations after rains)



- 50 PLANTS, 10 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!



4 Golden Ragwort
Packera aurea



2 White Wood Aster
Eurybia divaricata



5 Bottlebrush Grass
Elymus hystrix



7 Calico Aster
Symphyotrichum lateriflorum



6 Carolina Elephant's Foot
Elephantopus carolinianus



5 Jumpseed
Persicaria virginiana



8 Common Blue Violet
Viola sororia



6 White Cutgrass
Leersia virginica



4 Self Heal
Prunella vulgaris



3 Sweet Joe Pye Weed
Eutrochium purpureum

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



LOCALLY NATIVE PLANTS FEATURED IN THIS DESIGN:



Jumpseed

White flowers bloom in airy spikes. Later, the seeds "jump" from their pods when disturbed, providing the common name. The nectar is used by many types of bees. Blooms in July-October. Grows 2-3 ft tall.



Sweet Joe Pye Weed

The light pink flowers smell of vanilla when bruised. These blooms are used by Miner Bees and others. Three or four leaves grow in whorls around the central stem. Blooms July-October. Grows 5-7 ft tall.



White Cutgrass

This cool season grass has light colored seedheads that form in August to October. It often spreads to form groups by means of its roots. White Cutgrass provides shelter for pollinators and other wildlife. Grows 2-3 ft tall.



Golden Ragwort

A colony forming plant that has many yellow flowers that are used by Cuckoo Bees, Halictid Bees, and more. The leaves are mainly at the base of the plant and are semi-evergreen. Blooms April-June. Grows 1-2 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.



Carolina Elephant's Foot

The light purple or white flowers of Carolina Elephant's Foot are used by bees. Around these blooms are distinctive, triangular leafy bracts. Blooms in August-November. Grows 1-2 ft tall.



White Wood Aster

The plants have a low-growing habit with heart-shaped leaves and dark-colored, wiry stems. Its flowers are used as a late source of food for bees. Blooms August-October. Grows 1-2 ft tall.



Self Heal

A member of the mint family. Self Heal has tubular purple flowers that are used by long-tongued and short-tongued bees. Blooms May-September. Grows 1 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.



Calico Aster

A bushy structured plant that is covered in flowers late in the year. These blooms are used by a large variety of bees: Bumble bees, Masked Bees, Andrenine Bees, Plasterer Bees, Halictid Bees, and more. Blooms in September-November. Grows 3-4 ft 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!



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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This design and planting info is courtesy of

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Plants in this design are available from this nursery.