

Native Plants for Bee Forage*

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A complete list of plants with accompanying photos and cultural information is under construction on Cooperative Extension's Growing Small Farms website.

*For more information,
visit the Growing Small Farms website at www.protectpollinators.org.*

Common Name	Scientific Name	Origin
Perennials		
Anise hyssop	<i>Agastache</i> spp.	some species native
Nodding onion	<i>Allium cerneum</i>	native
Sandhills bluestar	<i>Amsonia ciliata</i>	native
Arkansas bluestar	<i>Amsonia hubrechtii</i>	native
Eastern bluestar	<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	native
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	native
Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	native
Butterfly weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	native
Common milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	native
Aster	<i>Aster</i> spp.	native
Wild indigo	<i>Baptisia</i> spp.	native
Lobed tickseed	<i>Coreopsis auriculata</i>	native
Lance-leaf tickseed	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	native
Greater tickseed	<i>Coreopsis major</i>	native
Tall tickseed	<i>Coreopsis tripteris</i>	native
American dittany	<i>Cunila organoides</i>	native
Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	native
Fleabane	<i>Erigeron</i> spp.	native
Rattlesnake master	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	native
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	native
White snakeroot	<i>Eupatorium rugosum</i>	native
Joe-pye weed	<i>Eutrochium fistulosum</i>	native
Lanceleaf blanketflower	<i>Gaillardia aestivalis</i>	native
Beeblossom	<i>Gaura</i> spp.	native
Common sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	native
Purple-head sneezeweed	<i>Helenium flexuosum</i>	native
Swamp sunflower	<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>	native
Rose mallow	<i>Hibiscus</i> spp.	native
Blazing star	<i>Liatris</i> spp.	native
Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	native

Common Name	Scientific Name	Origin
Great blue lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	native
Bee balm	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	native
Eastern horsemint	<i>Monarda punctata</i>	native
Evening primrose	<i>Oenothera fruticosa</i>	native
Wild quinine	<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>	native
Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon</i> spp.	native
Eastern gray beardtongue	<i>Penstemon canescens</i>	native
Obedient plant	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	native
Phlox	<i>Phlox</i> spp.	native
Hoary mountain mint	<i>Pycnanthemum incanum</i>	native
Clustered mountain mint	<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i>	native
Narrow-leaf mountain mint	<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>	native
Virginia mountain mint	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	native
Prairie coneflower	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	native
Orange coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	native
Black-eyed susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	native
Green-head coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	native
Brown-eyed susan	<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>	native
Azure blue sage	<i>Salvia azurea</i>	native
Lyre-leaf sage	<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	native
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	native
Hoary skullcap	<i>Scutellaria incana</i>	native
Large-flowered skullcap	<i>Scutellaria integrifolia</i>	native
Stonecrop	<i>Sedum</i> spp.	some species native
Woodland stonecrop	<i>Sedum ternatum</i>	native
Axillary goldenrod	<i>Solidago caesia</i>	native
Anise-scented goldenrod	<i>Solidago odora</i>	native
Rough-leaf goldenrod	<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	native
Showy goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	native
Stokes' aster	<i>Stokesia laevis</i>	native
Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum</i> spp.	native
Foamflower	<i>Tiarella wherryi</i>	native
Verbena	<i>Verbena canadensis</i>	native
Swamp verbena	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	native
Ironweed	<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	native
Speedwell	<i>Veronica</i> spp.	some species native
Culver's root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	native
Adam's needle	<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	native

Common Name	Scientific Name	Origin
Annual Flowers*		
Spiderflower	<i>Cleome</i> spp.	exotic
Cosmos	<i>Cosmos</i> spp.	exotic
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	native
Mexican sunflower	<i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>	exotic
Zinnia	<i>Zinnia</i> spp.	exotic

* These non-native flowers are included because they provide excellent forage for bees

Common Name	Scientific Name	Origin
Perennial Herbs*		
Onion/chives	<i>Allium</i> spp.	exotic
Calamint	<i>Calamintha</i> spp.	exotic
Bronze fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	exotic
Hyssop	<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>	exotic
Lavender	<i>Lavendula angustifolia</i>	exotic
Catmint	<i>Nepeta</i> spp.	exotic
Oregano	<i>Origanum</i> spp.	exotic
Mountain mint	<i>Pycnanthemum</i> spp.	native
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	exotic
Sage	<i>Salvia</i> spp.	exotic
Comfrey	<i>Symphytum peregrinum</i>	exotic
Thyme	<i>Thymus</i> spp.	exotic

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Origin
Annual Herbs*		
Dill	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	exotic
Borage	<i>Borago officinalis</i>	exotic
Cilantro	<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>	exotic
Basil	<i>Ocimum</i> spp.	exotic
Clary sage	<i>Salvia sclarea</i>	native

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Origin
Trees and Shrubs		
Maple	<i>Acer</i> spp.	native
Red buckeye	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	native
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	native
New Jersey Tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	native
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	native
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	native
Pepperbush	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	native
Eastern persimmon	<i>Diospyrus virginiana</i>	native
Carolina silverbell	<i>Halesia carolina</i>	native
Witch hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	native
Oak-leaf hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	native
St. John's Wort	<i>Hypericum frondosum</i>	native
Inkberry/Winterberry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	native
American holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	native
Yaupon	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	native
Tulip poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	native
Southern magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	native
Sweetbay	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	native
Sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	native
Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	native
Carolina cherry laurel	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	native
Sumac	<i>Rhus</i> spp.	native
Blackberry	<i>Rubus</i> spp.	naturalized
Willow	<i>Salix</i> spp.	native
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	native
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras officinale</i>	native
Hardhack	<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	native
Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium</i> spp.	native
Blackhaw	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	native
Viburnum	<i>Viburnum</i> spp.	native
Common Name		
Scientific Name		
Origin		
Vines		
Climbing aster	<i>Ampelaster carolinianus</i>	native
Clematis	<i>Clematis</i> spp.	some species native
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera</i> spp.	native
Passionflower	<i>Passiflora</i> spp.	native

Common Name	Scientific Name	Origin
Cover Crops		
Canola	<i>Brassica napus</i>	exotic
Buckwheat	<i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i>	exotic
Clovers	<i>Trifolium</i> spp.	exotic
Vetch	<i>Vicia</i> spp.	exotic

* The plants on this list are native to the Piedmont region of North Carolina unless otherwise indicated. A few non-native plants are included if they are known for being bee magnets!