



PLANT A VARIETY OF HERBS AND NATIVES FOR BEE FORAGE

We can all help the health of our local environment by planting a ‘bee banquet’ in our gardens for bees and other beneficial insects and birds throughout the year. Studies have shown that by increasing the diversity of flowering plants in our gardens, there will be a good balance of predators which eat other insects (ladybirds, birds, lizards, frogs) and pollinators (bees, butterflies, beetles) that facilitate pollination so plants can produce fruits, vegetables and seeds. Pollinators are the foundation of biodiversity and their presence in landscapes creates food for a wide range of other animals. Australia is already one of the most urbanised countries in the world, with a predicted increase to 90% of the population living in cities by 2050. “Urbanisation is a major driver of ecosystem degradation and habitat loss and is a global threat to biodiversity.” (Australian Native Bees, 2016 NSW DPI, p.45). When land is cleared for urban development, many species lose their homes and food supplies. New developments are often ‘all house/no garden’ and so there is an additional need for street plantings to provide a good range of food and habitat. By providing these resources in urban green spaces, native bees and other pollinators populations can be attracted and sustained, which in turn supports the biodiversity within urban landscapes. Many new developments also have sites for ‘Community Gardens’ which benefit from pollinator friendly plantings surrounding them.

Bees eat nectar and pollen. Nectar gives them energy for growth, breeding, flying and keeping warm. Pollen is the source of bees’ protein and fats for muscle growth in brood and young adult bees. For a healthy immune system bees and other pollinators need us to:






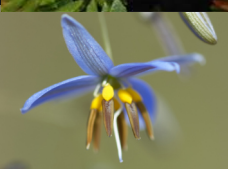
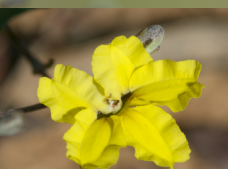
- Plant flowers in clumps of up to 1 metre across as it is easier for pollinators to find and reduces foraging distance. Many native bees have limited flight ranges of up to 500 metres. Plants should be of varying size and height to provide shelter for insects in different niches.
- Provide a variety of plants that flower at different times with overlapping so there is something to eat particularly around Jan – March when bees are building up their nests and there are fewer flowers around in the extreme heat.
- Choose a range of colours of flowers. **Bees** have good colour vision and are particularly attracted to **blue, violet, purple, yellow** and **white**. They like petals with nectar guides including stripes and spots.
- **Native bees** prefer a variety of ‘**local**’ **native** plants. They are largely ground dwelling and prefer soil free of pesticides and fertilizers. Leave areas of the ground undisturbed for native bee nesting sites. Keep dead wood and trees in paddocks for habitat.
- **Butterflies** prefer **red, orange, pink** and **white** flowers with a trumpet shape that hold nectar.
- Plant heirloom varieties of herbs and perennials as hybridisation has reduced the nectar and pollen in many flowers.
- Use organic seeds and seedlings to ensure plants have not been treated with pesticides. For suppliers please go to the [Organic Suppliers](#) section of actforbees.org website



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- **Bees and other beneficial insects** — ladybugs, butterflies, and predatory wasps — all need fresh water to drink. Put stones in a bird bath so they don't drown.
- **Herbs** are the bees medicine chest and great for cooking so include a wide range of herbs in pots or in the garden. **Basil, Bee Balm, Calendula, Chamomile, Coriander, Dill, Echinacea, Lavender, Lemon balm, Oregano, Peppermint, Rosemary, Sage, Sunflowers, Thyme** and **Yarrow** are wonderful additions to our gardens and can be grown in pots if limited space. Good for us and good for bees, butterflies. Let them go to flower!

GROUNDCOVERS FOR BEES AND POLLINATORS IN ACT

	Plant Name	Height x Width (m)	Flowering	Nectar/ Pollen	Pollinator
	<i>Brachyscome multifida</i> Cut-Leaved Daisy	Small plant for rockeries	Late Winter to early Autumn Long flowering	Nectar Pollen	Native bees
	<i>Chrysocephalum species</i> Paper Daisy	0.8 x 0.8	Spring-Summer Local species	Nectar Pollen	Native Bees Butterflies
	<i>Correa 'Dusky Bells'</i>	Under 1m	Autumn	Nectar	Bees
	<i>Correa glabra</i> Rock Correa	Under 1m	Green/yellow bell flowers Autumn and Winter	Nectar	Bees
	<i>Dampiera diversifolia</i>	0.1 x 0.5	Deep blue flowers Spring and Summer	Nectar	Bees Butterflies
	<i>Dianella species</i> Blue Flax Lilies	1 x 1	Spring and Summer Local species	Nectar Pollen	Variety of native bees
	<i>Goodenia species</i>	Border or groundcover	Spring to Autumn	Nectar	Variety of native bees



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	Plant Name	Height x Width (m)	Flowering	Nectar/ Pollen	Pollinator
	<i>Grevillea</i> 'Bronze Rambler'	0.3 x 2	All year round	High nectar	Bees
	<i>Grevillea laurifolia</i> 'Royal Mantle'	Prostrate groundcover	Autumn to Winter	Nectar	Honey bees
	<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> False Sarsparilla	Prostrate groundcover	Early Spring Local species	Nectar Pollen	Bees Butterflies Leafcutter Bees
	<i>Hibbertia calycina</i> Lesser Guineaflower	0.2 x 0.6	Late Spring and Summer Local species	Pollen	Native bees: Teddy Bear Bee and Blue Banded Bee
	<i>Scaevola humilis</i> Fan Flower	0.2 x 1.5	Spring to Summer	Nectar	Native bees Leafcutter bees Butterflies Birds
	<i>Salvia</i> species Sages	1 x 0.5	Spring, Summer and Autumn	High Nectar	Bees Leafcutter bees Butterflies Birds
	<i>Salvia uliginosa</i> Bog Sage	1 x 1.5	All summer vigorous	Nectar	Honey bees Native bees
	<i>Wahlenbergia capillaris</i> Native Bluebell	0.3 x 0.1	Summer and Autumn Local species	Nectar	Native Bees
	<i>Xerochrysum viscosum</i> Sticky Everlasting	0.8 x 0.8	Spring and Summer Local species	Nectar Pollen	Bees Butterflies



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SHRUBS FOR BEES AND POLLINATORS IN ACT

	Plant Name	Height x Width (m)	Flowering	Nectar/ Pollen	Pollinator
	<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i> Abelia	1 x 1	Summer Pink flowers	High Nectar	Honey bees Native bees Butterflies
	<i>Baeckea virgata</i> Tall Baeckea	3 x 3	Summer Masses of white flowers	Nectar	Bees
	<i>Callistemon species</i> Bottlebrush	2-4.5 x 1-2	Spring and Summer Flowers twice a year in good conditions	High Nectar Medium pollen	Bees Beneficial wasps Moths Birds
	<i>Cassinia longifolia</i> Cauliflower Bush	2 x 2	Summer Local species	Nectar Pollen	Butterflies Habitat for birds and other native fauna
	Ceanothus 'Blue Pacific'	2 x 1.5	Summer	Nectar Pollen	Bees
	<i>Correa pulchella</i>	1 x 1	Long flowering season	Nectar Pollen	Bees Nectar-feeding birds
	<i>Crowea saligna</i>	1.2 x 1.2	Autumn and Winter	Nectar Pollen	Bees Other Insects
	<i>Daviesia mimosoides</i> Narrow-leaved Bitterpea	2 x 1.5	Spring	Nectar Pollen	Native Bees Honey Bees Other Insects
	<i>Grevillea victoriae</i> Royal Grevillea	1.5 x 3	Spring and Summer Rusty-red flowers	Nectar	Honey bees Birds
	<i>Grevillea iaspicula</i> Wee Jasper Grevillea	2 x 2	Winter Cream/pink flowers	Nectar	Honey bees



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	Plant Name	Height x Width (m)	Flowering	Nectar/ Pollen	Pollinator
	<i>Hakea species</i> Pincushion Trees	5 x 2	Winter and Spring	Medium nectar Low pollen	Honey bees Native bees
	<i>Hebe species</i>	1 x 1	Throughout the year	Nectar	Honey bees Native bees
	<i>Leptospermum species</i> Tea Trees	3 x 3	Spring and Summer Masses of white, pink, red or purple flowers	High nectar Pollen	Native Bees Other Insects
	<i>Melaleuca species</i> Paperbarks	1.5 x 2.5	Spring and Summer	High nectar High pollen	Bees Butterflies
	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> Cherry Plum	4 x 6	Spring	Nectar Pollen	Bees
	<i>Westringia longifolia</i> Long-leaved Westringia	2 x 1.5	Spring	High nectar	Native Bees Birds





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TREES FOR BEES AND POLLINATORS IN ACT

	Plant Name	Height	Flowering	Nectar/ Pollen	Pollinator
	<i>Acacia melanoxyylon</i> Blackwood	10-25 m	Summer Local species	Good pollen	Bees
	<i>Banksia marginata</i> & <i>Banksia</i> species	6-8 m	Summer to Autumn Local species	Good nectar Pollen	Native Bees Honey Bees
	<i>Brachychiton populneus</i> Kurrajong	8-10 m	Summer Local species	Medium nectar Pollen	Bees
	<i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i> Blakely's Red Gum	15-20 m	Spring to Summer Local species	Medium nectar Medium pollen	Bees
	<i>Eucalyptus mannifera</i> Brittle Gum	10-15 m	Summer to Autumn Local species	Low nectar Medium pollen	Bees
	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i> Yellow Box	15-25 m	Spring to Summer Local species	High nectar Nil pollen	Bees
	<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i> Snow Gum	10-15 m	Summer to Autumn Local species	High nectar High pollen	Provides wildlife habitat
	<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemus</i> Red Box	15-20 m	Summer to Winter	Medium nectar Low pollen	Bees
	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> Manna Gum	15-30 m	Summer	Medium nectar Medium pollen	Bees



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Michael Mobbs. Native Bee attracting plants

Long-tongued bees will favour tubular blooms such as:

- Correa 1-2m (Native Fushia)
- Westringia (ranges from ground covers, to 2m)
- Prostanthera (Mint Bushes – usually around 1-2m)

Reed Bees love Australian plants in the Fabaceae family such as:

- Wattles
- Peas

Plants that specifically attract the 'Buzz Bees' such as the **Teddy Bear, Carpenter and Blue-Banded Bees** include:

- Dianella
- Hibbertia scandens (hardy native salt-tolerant climber, Sun or Shade, protect from frost)
- Leptospermum (Tea Tree)
- Pomaderris – masses of creamy flower heads are very attractive to native bees, as well as other insects.
- Westringia

Even dead shrubs and trees are home to many creatures. The metallic-green **Peacock Carpenter Bee** nests in dead dry flowering stalks of grass trees (Xanthorrhoea) or in soft wood such as Banksia and Leptospermum.

RESOURCES

Australia:

ACT for Bees Gardening for Bees

Bee Friendly - Publications

Bees Business. Great information on native bees

Honey and pollen flora suitable for planting in SE NSW

Flora Resource Database for the NSW Apiary Industry Doug Sommerville. NSW RIRDC

Planting and Creating Habitat to Attract Bees

Attracting Native Bees to Your Garden - Flora for Fauna

Native Bee Attracting Plants Flowers for Native Bees in Sydney

Protein Content and Amino Acid Profiles of Honeybee Collected Pollens

Australian Plants for Canberra region gardens and other cool climate areas.

Australian Native Plants society Canberra Region Inc. ANPSCR 2016

The Bee Friendly Garden: Doug Purdie 2016

Overseas /Introduced species:

Nectar and Pollen Providing Plants for Honey Bees - Duval County

Trees for Bees - British Beekeepers Association

The National Gardening Association Database

British Beekeepers: Trees for Bees