



Bee Food Plant List

TREES AND SHRUBBY TREES

Early Spring:

- Mexican Buckeye (*Ungnadia speciosa*)
Deciduous
Height: Large shrub, 15 feet
Light: Understory
Soil: Rocky soil, adaptable to clay, loam.
Fruit: Seeds
Deer usually avoid.
Notes: Nectar and host plant
- Mexican Plum (*Prunus Mexicana*)
Deciduous
Height: 15 to 25 feet
Light: Gentle sun to light shade
Soil: Well drained, adaptable to clay loam.
Fruit: Small, edible plums
Not deer resistant.
Notes: Bumblebees love fruit trees
- Mountain Laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*)
Evergreen
Height: 12 feet
Light: Full sun to part shade
Soil: Limestone hills, adaptable, clay
Fruit: Poisonous seeds
Deer usually avoid.
- Texas Redbud (*Cercis canadensis var. texensis*)
Deciduous
Height: Up to 20 feet
Light: Sun, part shade
Soil: Well drained, adaptable
Fruit: Seeds
Moderately deer resistant

Mid Spring:

- Cherry Laurel (*Prunus caroliniana*)
Evergreen tree
Height: 15-30 feet
Light: Gentle sun to part shade
Soil: Adaptable
Fruit: Berries are eaten by birds
Deer usually avoid
Notes: Not for arid locations

- Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum (*Viburnum rufidulum*)
Deciduous
Height: 15-25 feet
Light: Gentle sun, part shade
Soil: Well drained loam, clay
Fruit: Berries are favored by birds
Moderately deer resistant
Notes: Great fall color, don't overwater
- Roughleaf Dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*)
Deciduous
Height: 15-25 feet
Light: Understory, part shade
Soil: Moist stream banks, adaptable
Fruit: Birds eat the white fruit clusters
Not deer resistant
Notes: Needs water

Late Spring to Summer:

- Anacua (*Ehretia anacua*)
Evergreen tree
Height: 30 feet
Light: Sun, part shade
Soil: Well drained, open woodland, adaptable
Fruit: Berries are eaten by birds
Deer usually avoid.
Notes: Great nectar plant, needs water to establish
- Carolina Buckthorn (*Frangula caroliniana*)
Deciduous
Height: 12-15 feet
Light: Understory, some sun necessary for flowers
Soil: Well drained, rocky, streambanks, woods
Fruit: Birds love the berries
Not deer resistant
Notes: Great wildlife plant

Summer to Fall:

- Kidneywood (*Eisenhardtia texana*)
Deciduous
Height: 3-10 feet
Light: Sun
Soil: Dry, well drained
Fruit: Seeds
Moderately deer resistant
Notes: blooms May – October; great for bees; leaves have a citrus scent



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- Desert Willow (Chilopsis linearis)
Deciduous
Height: 15-40 feet
Light: Full sun
Soil: Well drained limestone soils preferred
Fruit: Seed pods
Moderately deer resistant
Notes: Blooms spring through fall, attracts hummingbirds and bumblebees; not a true Willow, but related to trumpet vine and yellow bells
- Buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis)
Deciduous
Height: 6-12 feet
Light: Full sun, part shade ok
Soil: Moist
Fruit: Seeds are eaten by birds
Moderately deer resistant
Notes: Pollinator paradise; needs moist soil
- Bee-brush (Aloysia gratissima)
Deciduous
Height: 6 to 8 feet
Blooms spring through fall, best in full sun
Deer usually avoid
Bees love it!

Sumacs:

- Prairie Flameleaf Sumac (Rhus lanceolata)
Deciduous
Height: Up to 20 feet
Light: Full sun
Soil: Well drained, clay, loam, calcareous, rocky
Fruit: Drupes of red berries are favored by songbirds
Moderately deer resistant; deer browse young trees
Notes: important wildlife food source, blooms when nothing else will; nectar and host plant; erosion control, thicket forming, splendid fall color
- Also Evergreen Sumac (Rhus virens)

PERENNIALS:

Ground Covers:

- Frogfruit (Phyla nodiflora)
Evergreen
Flower: Tiny verbena, white, May-October
Light: Sun or shade
Grows in any soil
Larval host: Buckeye
Moderately deer resistant
- Horseherb/Straggler daisy (Calyptocarpus vialis)
Flower: Tiny sunflowers, yellow, spring through fall
Light: Sun or shade
Grows in any soil
Deer usually avoid.
- Calylophus (Calylophus berlandieri)
Evergreen
Flower: yellow, spring into summer
Light: Sun
Well drained soil
Deer usually avoid
- Also herbs like Germander, Thyme, Rosemary, and Oregano.

Blue Salvias:

- Mealy Blue Sage (Salvia farinacea)
Root hardy
Flower: Blue, May-October, often earlier
Light: Sun
Soil: Well drained, prefers good garden soil
Deer resistant
Notes: Bees love blue salvias
- Mystic Spires Salvia
- Also: Autumn Sage (Salvia greggii)

Mallows:

- Desert globemallow (Sphaeralcea ambigua)
Evergreen shrub, 4 feet
Flower: Masses of orange flowers, Feb – Nov
Light: Sun
Soil: Well drained, dry soil
Deer resistant
- Winecup (Callirhoe involucrata)
Deciduous
Flower: purple, February-July
Sun to part shade
Well drained soil, adaptable
Minimal deer resistance
Nectar and butterfly host plant



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- Rockrose (Pavonia lasiopetala)
Deciduous
Flower: hibiscus-like, pink, spring to fall
Sun to shade
Well drained soil, adaptable
Moderately deer resistant
- Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea)
Root hardy
Flower: big, pink, spring and fall, good perch for big butterflies
Light: Sun to part shade in the afternoon
Soil: Well drained, good garden soil
Deer usually avoid

All Mistflowers are good pollinator plants

- Fragrant Mistflower (Eupatorium havanense)
Deciduous
Root hardy perennial shrub, 2-6 feet
Flower: clusters of small white blooms, October-November; important late nectar source for migrating butterflies and overwintering bees;
Part shade, shade
Well drained woodland soil
Deer resistant

All Asters are a great pollinator food source

- Fall Aster (Aster oblongifolius)
Root hardy
Flower: purple, September-November, critical nectar and pollen resource for overwintering bees and migrating monarchs;
Sun
Well drained soil, adaptable
Deer resistant

Bonus: Especially for Monarchs

- Frostweed (Verbesina virginica)
Root hardy, 3 feet
Flower: white, heads 3 to 6 inches across
Shade
Well drained soil
Another important fall food source for monarch migration. Frostweed forms colonies under live oaks, where monarchs seek shelter in inclement weather.
Winter seeds for birds

Perennial grasses for insect habitat and soil improvement:

- Twin-flower Melic Grass (Melica mutica)
1-2 feet
Cool season grass
Pretty, light green, native grass
Gentle sun to light shade
Well drained soil, adaptable

*All herbs and vegetables are great bee food when we let them go to flower. And don't forget summer annuals like portulaca and purslane. The simpler the flower, the more nectar, the better it is for bees!

**After the glory of fall, let your garden rest. To provide pollinator habitat, don't clean up too early. Native bees are sleeping in the hollow stalks of your perennials. No raking or scraping during the winter. Don't cut anything until February (usually around Valentine's Day), when you see new rosettes forming under perennial stalks. This will also provide a microclimate for your perennial roots, and protect them during a freeze.