



Gardening for Native Bees in Utah and Beyond

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Do You Know?

- 900 species of native bees reside in Utah.
- Some wild bees are superb pollinators of Utah's tree fruits, raspberries, squashes, melons and cucumbers.
- Few of our native bees have much venom or any inclination to sting.
- Our native bees use hundreds of varieties of garden flowers, many of them water-wise.
- A garden plant need not be native to attract and feed native bees.

Utah is home to more than 20 percent of the 4,000+ named species of wild bees that are native to North America. Except for bumblebees and some sweat bees, our native bees are solitary, not social, many with just one annual generation that coincides with bloom by their favorite floral hosts. In contrast, the familiar honeybee is highly social, has perennial colonies, and was brought to North America by settlers from Europe. Regardless of these differences, however, all of our bees need pollen and nectar from flowers. The sugars in sweet nectar power their flight; mother bees also imbibe some nectar to mix with pollen that they gather. Pollen is fortified with proteins, oils and minerals that are essential for the diets of their grub-like larvae back at the nest.

Our flower gardens can become valuable cafeterias for local populations of diverse native bees. In our cities and towns, native plant communities have been displaced by pavement, buildings and lawns. In the countryside, grain and hay crops likewise



Fig. 1. Carder bee (*Anthidium*) foraging at lavender (*Lavendula*: Lamiaceae).¹



Fig. 2. A pollinator garden can also be water-wise. Purple *Penstemon strictus*, front, firecracker penstemon (*P. eatonii*), center, and blue flax (*Linum perenne*), background, combine to make a pleasing design.¹

offer our native bees little food. Because bees find their favorite flowers by their color or scent, a bee garden can also be appealing to the homeowner. Many of these flowering species are surprisingly easy to grow.

Some people are fearful of being stung if they attract native bees to their yard. In our 25 years of watching bees at flowers, we have yet to be stung by any species of non-social bees native to North America. We have been stung handling honey bees or bumble bees at their colonies. These social bees are the ones that deliver the most painful stings. But even then, we've never been stung when just watching them at flowers.

The table of garden plants for native bees (page 4) can help guide home gardeners in Utah and across North America to genera of flowering plants whose species will please gardener and bee alike. In turn, pollination services by bees set bumper crops of all of our tree fruits and some vegetables too. Native bees also give hours of pleasant entertainment and distraction as you follow their foraging rounds or their amorous pursuits at your flowers.

The list consists of plant genera, many of whose species both attract native bees and are available from standard or native seed companies or plant nurseries. In a few cases, particularly valuable plants for native bees are listed though not yet available commercially. If just beginning your Utah bee garden, consider species from the genera that are bolded in **blue italics**. These represent broadly available, adaptable, and dependable plant genera whose blooms reliably attract native bees. Many of the genera in the list will not be universally adaptable to all climates, soils, and irrigation regimes; you will need to make informed decisions from among the genera in the list for your local use. If you are trying water-wise (or xeriscape) plants from seed, autumn seeding is beneficial, as many need a cool wet period to elicit germination. Note that the vast majority of choices are perennials, in contrast with the many traditional annual bedding plants. You will need to be patient during their first year of establishment, weed regularly, and provide occasional water as they develop their extensive root systems.

Be aware of the invasive tendencies of some plant species in your locale. The bachelor's button or cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*), for instance, is a well-behaved garden plant across much of the U.S., but in parts of the Pacific Northwest, it has become a naturalized, undesirable weed. If in doubt, please check with your county Extension agent or the Utah Department of Agriculture, or visit one of the Web sites listed below for introductory weed information.

invader.dbs.umt.edu/Noxious_Weeds, is a searchable listing of all U.S. weeds, by state

www.invasive.org/weedus, "Invasive Plant Atlas of the US," contains images

wiki.bugwood.org/Invasipedia, lists close to 200 species with detailed information on each



Fig. 3. Nevada bee-plant (*Cleome lutea*) is a water-wise annual native to western U.S., providing pollen in summer to bees such as this *Anthophora digger* bee.¹



Fig. 4. Mason bees (*Osmia*) are very important pollinators, and are superior to honey bees in tree fruit orchards. They forage at hundreds of different flowers, including sweetvetch (*Hedysarum Fabaceae*).¹



Fig. 5. Male *Melissodes* bees (with distinctive long antennae) sleeping on a sunflower head (*Helianthus*: Asteraceae).¹

Some popular garden flowers are missing from the list, such as tulips, petunias and marigolds. These and some other garden flowers have, through years of artificial breeding and selection, lost whatever attraction they may have had for bees. That's no reason not to plant and enjoy them; they just won't feed bees.

The list is a work in progress. If you find errors, oversights or useful refinements, I will be happy to consider your suggestions for modification so long as it retains its current form. You may disseminate the list or modify your copy of it for local needs or your personal preferences as you see fit. Happy bee-ing!!



Fig. 6. The legume, western prairie clover (*Dalea ornata*), is an Intermountain West native, producing pollen for months for bees like this bumblebee (*Bombus*).²



Fig. 7. The native squash bee (*Peponapis pruinosa*) pollinates most of Utah's squashes and pumpkins (cucurbits), and is active primarily in the early morning hours.¹



Fig. 8. Fernbush (*Chamaebatiaria millefolium*) is a native shrub with aromatic foliage.¹



Fig. 9. Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) blooms for months, and is the authors' favorite pollinator plant.¹



Fig. 10. Blue hyssop (*Hyssopus*: Lamiaceae) blooms in mid to late summer and is very hardy.¹



Fig. 11. Design the pollinator garden with a succession of blooms for season-long foraging.¹

Garden Plant Recommendations for Wild Bees of North America

This table contains nearly 200 garden plant genera with species whose flowers are sought by wild bees of North America.

The **Code** column is useful for Utah gardeners. Some additional species not coded as G or U are suitable for Utah but only in the hot, southernmost climates (e.g. *Larrea* or creosote bush).

- G** - grows in Utah
- U** - Utah native
- W** - water-wise
- F** - food product

Form tells whether the usable species in the genus are

- A** - annual
- P** - perennial
- S** - shrub
- T** - tree

Plants in **bold italic** are great choices for Utah gardeners.

| Genus | Family | Common Name | Code | Forms | Notes |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|------|-------|---|
| <i>Abelia</i> | CAPRIFOLIACEAE | abelia | | S | |
| <i>Acacia</i> | FABACEAE | acacia | W | ST | |
| <i>Acer</i> | ACERACEAE | maple | GU | T | |
| <i>Achillea</i> | ASTERACEAE | yarrow | GUW | P | <i>A. millefolium</i> weedy |
| <i>Aconitum</i> | RANUNCULACEAE | monkshood | GU | P | |
| <i>Agastache</i> | LAMIACEAE | hyssop | G | P | |
| <i>Ajuga</i> | LAMIACEAE | carpet bugle | G | P | |
| <i>Allium</i> | LILIACEAE | ornamental onions | GUW | P | |
| <i>Althea</i> | MALVACEAE | hollyhock | G | P | not double-flowered |
| <i>Amelanchier</i> | ROSACEAE | serviceberry | GU | S | |
| <i>Amorpha</i> | FABACEAE | false indigo | G | S | |
| <i>Anchusa</i> | BORAGINACEAE | wild forget-me-not | | AP | |
| <i>Anethum</i> | APIACEAE | dill | G | A | |
| <i>Aquilegia</i> | RANUNCULACEAE | columbine | GU | P | not double-flowered |
| <i>Arctostaphylos</i> | ERICACEAE | manzanita | GUW | S | |
| <i>Argemone</i> | PAPAVERACEAE | prickly poppy | GUW | P | |
| <i>Armeria</i> | PLUMBAGINACEAE | sea thrift | G | P | |
| <i>Aster</i> | ASTERACEAE | aster | GUW | P | not double-flowered |
| <i>Astragalus</i> | FABACEAE | locoweed | GUW | P | |
| <i>Baileya</i> | ASTERACEAE | desert marigold | GW | P | |
| <i>Baptisia</i> | FABACEAE | wild-indigo | G | P | |
| <i>Berberis</i> | BERBERIDACEAE | barberry | G | S | |
| <i>Borago</i> | BORAGINACEAE | borage | G | A | |
| <i>Brassica</i> | BRASSICACEAE | mustard | G | A | <i>B. kaber</i> and <i>B. nigra</i> weedy |
| <i>Calamintha</i> | LAMIACEAE | calamint | G | P | |
| <i>Calliopsis</i> | ASTERACEAE | annual coreopsis | G | A | <i>C. tinctoria</i> |
| <i>Callirhoe</i> | MALVACEAE | wine cups | GW | P | |
| <i>Calluna</i> | ERICACEAE | heather | | S | needs acidic soils |
| <i>Camissonia</i> | ONAGRACEAE | camissonia | G | P | |

| Genus | Family | Common Name | Code | Forms | Notes |
|------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Campanula</i> | CAMPANULACEAE | bell flower | G | P | |
| <i>Caragena</i> | FABACEAE | Siberian peashrub | G | S | |
| <i>Carthamus</i> | ASTERACEAE | safflower | GWF | A | |
| <i>Caryopteris</i> | LAMIACEAE | blue mist spirea | GW | S | esp. <i>C. x clandonensis</i> |
| <i>Cassia</i> | FABACEAE | many now Senna | | T | |
| <i>Ceanothus</i> | RHAMNACEAE | buckbrush | GW | S | California species only |
| <i>Cercidium</i> | FABACEAE | palo verde | W | T | |
| <i>Cercis</i> | FABACEAE | redbud | G | ST | |
| <i>Cercocarpus</i> | ROSACEAE | mountain mahogany | GUW | S | |
| <i>Chaenomeles</i> | ROSACEAE | flowering quince | G | S | |
| <i>Chamaebatiaria</i> | ROSACEAE | fernbush | GUW | S | see Fig. 8 |
| <i>Chilopsis</i> | BIGNONIACEAE | desert willow | | S | |
| <i>Chrysothamnus</i> | ASTERACEAE | rabbit brush, chamisa | GUW | S | = <i>Ericameria</i> |
| <i>Citrullus</i> | CUCURBITACEAE | watermelon | GF | A | |
| <i>Citrus</i> | RUTACEAE | grapefruit, orange, lemon | | T | |
| <i>Clarkia</i> | ONAGRACEAE | clarkia | G | A | not double-flowered |
| <i>Cleome</i> | CLEOMACEAE | bee-plant | GUW | A | see Fig. 3 |
| <i>Coreopsis</i> | ASTERACEAE | coreopsis | GW | AP | |
| <i>Coriandrum</i> | APIACEAE | coriander | GF | A | |
| <i>Coronilla</i> | FABACEAE | crownvetch | G | P | |
| <i>Cosmos</i> | ASTERACEAE | cosmos | G | AP | |
| <i>Crataegus</i> | ROSACEAE | hawthorn | GU | ST | |
| <i>Cucurbita</i> | CUCURBITACEAE | squash, gourd, pumpkin | GF | A | see Fig. 7 |
| <i>Cuphea</i> | LYTHRACEAE | false heather | G | S | <i>C. hyssopifolia</i> |
| <i>Cydonia</i> | ROSACEAE | fruiting quince | F | S | |
| <i>Cynara</i> | ASTERACEAE | artichoke, cardoon | F | P | |
| <i>Cynoglossum</i> | BORAGINACEAE | hound's tongue | G | P | <i>C. grande</i> ; shade |
| <i>Dalea</i> | FABACEAE | prairie clover | GUW | P | see Fig. 6 |
| <i>Daucus</i> | APIACEAE | carrot, Queen Anne's lace | GF | P | some weedy |
| <i>Delphinium</i> | RANUNCULACEAE | larkspur | GU | AP | not double-flowered |
| <i>Delosperma</i> | AIZOACEAE | ice plant | GW | P | |
| <i>Digitalis</i> | SCROPHULARIACEAE | foxglove | G | P | |
| <i>Echinacea</i> | ASTERACEAE | cone flower | G | P | |
| <i>Echium</i> | BORAGINACEAE | Pride of Madera | | P | |
| <i>Ericameria</i> | ASTERACEAE | rabbit brush, chamisa | GUW | S | <i>E. nauseosa</i> |
| <i>Erigeron</i> | ASTERACEAE | fleabane | GUW | P | |
| <i>Eriodictyon</i> | HYDROPHYLLACEAE | yerba santa | W | P | |

| Genus | Family | Common Name | Code | Forms | Notes |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------|-------|---|
| <i>Eriogonum</i> | POLYGONACEAE | wild buckwheat | GUW | SP | |
| <i>Eryngium</i> | APIACEAE | sea holly | G | AP | |
| <i>Erysimum</i> | BRASSICACEAE | wallflower | GU | P | |
| <i>Escholzia</i> | PAPAVERACEAE | California poppy | GW | P | |
| <i>Eupatorium</i> | ASTERACEAE | joe pye weed | G | P | not <i>E. capillifolium</i> |
| <i>Ferocactus</i> | CACTACEAE | barrel cactus | W | P | |
| <i>Foeniculum</i> | APIACEAE | fennel | GF | P | <i>F. vulgare</i> |
| <i>Fragaria</i> | ROSACEAE | strawberry | GF | P | |
| <i>Fremontodendron</i> | STERCULIACEAE | flannelbush | W | S | |
| Gaillardia | ASTERACEAE | blanket flower | GW | AP | |
| <i>Gaura</i> | ONAGRACEAE | gaura | GW | P | |
| <i>Gentiana</i> | GENTIANACEAE | blue gentian | GU | P | |
| <i>Geraea</i> | ASTERACEAE | desert sunflower | W | A | |
| <i>Geum</i> | ROSACEAE | avens, prairie smoke | G | P | |
| <i>Gilia</i> | POLEMONIACEAE | gilia | GUW | P | blue or violet |
| <i>Glycyrrhiza</i> | FABACEAE | licorice | | P | |
| <i>Hedeoma</i> | LAMIACEAE | sweetscent, mock pennyroyal | | P | |
| Hedysarum | FABACEAE | sweet vetch | GUW | P | <i>H. boreale</i>; see Fig. 4 |
| <i>Helenium</i> | ASTERACEAE | sneezeweed | GW | P | |
| <i>Helianthella</i> | ASTERACEAE | sunflower | GU | P | |
| Helianthus | ASTERACEAE | sunflower | GUW | AP | not double-flowered or pollen-free; see Fig. 5 |
| <i>Heliotropium</i> | BORAGINACEAE | heliotrope | G | P | often grown as annual |
| <i>Hibiscus</i> | MALVACEAE | rose-of-sharon, hollyhock | G | S | not double-flowered |
| <i>Holodiscus</i> | ROSACEAE | cliff spirea, mountainspray | GU | S | |
| <i>Hymenoxys</i> | ASTERACEAE | alpine sunflower | GUW | P | |
| <i>Hyptis</i> | LAMIACEAE | desert lavender | GW | S | |
| Hyssopus | LAMIACEAE | hyssop | GW | P | see Fig. 10 |
| <i>Ilex</i> | AQUIFOLIACEAE | holly | | ST | needs acidic soils |
| <i>Iliamna</i> | MALVACEAE | mountain hollyhock | GU | P | |
| <i>Kallstroemia</i> | ZYGOPHYLLACEAE | Arizona poppy | W | P | |
| <i>Keckiella</i> | SCROPHULARIACEAE | bush penstemon | | S | |
| <i>Lamium</i> | LAMIACEAE | deadnettle | G | P | incl. <i>Lamiastrum</i> |
| <i>Larrea</i> | ZYGOPHYLLACEAE | creosote bush | W | S | |
| <i>Lathyrus</i> | FABACEAE | sweet pea | G | AP | a marginal bee plant |
| Lavendula | LAMIACEAE | lavendar | GW | S | see Fig. 1 |
| <i>Layia</i> | ASTERACEAE | tidytips | | A | |

| Genus | Family | Common Name | Code | Forms | Notes |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------|-------|---|
| <i>Lespedeza</i> | FABACEAE | bush clover | W | PS | esp. <i>L. cuneata</i> |
| <i>Lesquerella</i> | BRASSICACEAE | bladderpod | W | A | |
| <i>Liatris</i> | ASTERACEAE | gayfeather | G | P | |
| <i>Limnanthes</i> | LIMNANTHACEAE | meadowfoam, fried egg flower | G | A | |
| <i>Linanthus</i> | POLEMONIACEAE | mountain phlox | W | A | |
| <i>Linum</i> | LINACEAE | flax | GUW | AP | see Fig. 2 |
| <i>Lotus</i> | FABACEAE | birdsfoot trefoil, lotus | G | P | good in pastures |
| <i>Lycium</i> | SOLANACEAE | wolfberry | W | S | |
| <i>Mahonia</i> | BERBERIDACEAE | Oregon grape | GUW | S | |
| <i>Malus</i> | ROSACEAE | apple, crabapple | GF | T | |
| <i>Malva</i> | MALVACEAE | mallow | | P | |
| <i>Medicago</i> | FABACEAE | alfalfa, medic | G | P | good in pastures |
| <i>Melilotus</i> | FABACEAE | sweet clover | G | AP | can be weedy |
| <i>Mentha</i> | LAMIACEAE | mint | GF | P | |
| <i>Mentzelia</i> | LOASACEAE | blazing star | GUW | P | |
| <i>Mertensia</i> | BORAGINACEAE | bluebells | GU | P | |
| <i>Mimulus</i> | SCROPHULARIACEAE | monkey flower | GU | P | |
| <i>Monarda</i> | LAMIACEAE | bee balm | G | P | not red |
| <i>Myoporum</i> | MYOPORACEAE | myoporum | W | ST | <i>M. laetum</i> |
| <i>Nemophila</i> | HYDROPHYLLACEAE | blue eyes | G | A | |
| <i>Nepeta</i> | LAMIACEAE | catmint | GW | P | esp. <i>N. x faassenii</i> |
| <i>Ocimum</i> | LAMIACEAE | basil | GF | A | |
| <i>Oenothera</i> | ONAGRACEAE | evening primrose | GUW | P | |
| <i>Opuntia</i> | CACTACEAE | pear cactus | GUW | P | |
| <i>Origanum</i> | LAMIACEAE | oregano | GF | P | |
| <i>Oxydendrum</i> | ERICACEAE | sourwood | | T | |
| <i>Oxytropis</i> | FABACEAE | locoweed | GUW | P | |
| <i>Parkinsonia</i> | FABACEAE | Mexican palo verde | W | S | |
| <i>Pedicularis</i> | SCROPHULARIACEAE | lousewort | GU | P | |
| <i>Penstemon</i> | SCROPHULARIACEAE | penstemon | GUW | P | <i>P. palmeri</i>, <i>P. strictus</i>, <i>P. eatoni</i> etc.; see Fig. 2 |
| <i>Perovskia</i> | LAMIACEAE | Russian sage | GW | S | <i>P. atriplicifolia</i>; see Fig. 9 |
| <i>Petalostemon</i> | FABACEAE | prairie clover | GUW | P | = <i>Dalea</i> |
| <i>Phacelia</i> | HYDROPHYLLACEAE | bluebells, scorpionweed | GW | A | |
| <i>Phyllodoce</i> | ERICACEAE | mountain-heath | | S | needs acidic soil |
| <i>Physocarpus</i> | ROSACEAE | ninebark | GUW | S | |
| <i>Physostegia</i> | LAMIACEAE | obedient plant | G | P | |

| Genus | Family | Common Name | Code | Forms | Notes |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|------|-------|---|
| <i>Pieris</i> | ERICACEAE | fetterbush | | S | needs acidic soil |
| <i>Platystemon</i> | PAPAVERACEAE | creamcups | | A | |
| <i>Polemonium</i> | POLEMONEACEAE | Jacob's ladder | GU | P | |
| <i>Pontederia</i> | PONTEDERACEAE | pickerelweed | | P | an aquatic plant |
| <i>Prosopis</i> | FABACEAE | mesquite | W | ST | |
| <i>Prunella</i> | LAMIACEAE | henbit | G | P | some weedy |
| <i>Prunus</i> | ROSACEAE | cherry, plum, apricot | GUF | ST | not double-flowered |
| <i>Psoralea</i> | FABACEAE | indigobush | W | S | |
| <i>Purshia</i> | ROSACEAE | cliff rose | GUW | S | |
| <i>Pycnanthemum</i> | LAMIACEAE | mountain mint | G | P | |
| <i>Raphanus</i> | BRASSICACEAE | mustard | | A | |
| <i>Ratibida</i> | ASTERACEAE | Mexican hat | GW | P | |
| <i>Rhamnus</i> | RHAMNACEAE | buckthorn | G | S | |
| <i>Rhus</i> | ANACARDIACEAE | sumac | GUW | S | |
| <i>Ribes</i> | GROSSULARIACEAE | currant | GUF | S | esp. <i>R. aureum</i> |
| <i>Robinia</i> | FABACEAE | black locust | G | T | |
| <i>Romneya</i> | PAPAVERACEAE | Matilija poppy | | P | |
| <i>Rosa</i> | ROSACEAE | rugosa-type and wild roses | GU | P | not double-flowered, some weedy |
| <i>Rosmarinus</i> | LAMIACEAE | rosemary | GF | S | |
| Rubus | ROSACEAE | raspberry, blackberry, brambles | GUF | P | some weedy |
| <i>Rudbeckia</i> | ASTERACEAE | black-eyed susan | GU | P | |
| Salix | SALICACEAE | willow | GU | ST | pussywillow, not weeping willow |
| Salvia | LAMIACEAE | sage | G | PS | blue or violet, esp. <i>S. nemorosa</i> and ' Blue Spires ' |
| <i>Sambucus</i> | CAPRIFOLIACEAE | elderberry | GU | S | |
| <i>Scabiosa</i> | DIPSACEAE | pincushion flower | G | P | not double-flowered |
| Sedum | CRASSULACEAE | sedum, stonecrop | GUW | P | |
| <i>Senecio</i> | ASTERACEAE | butterweed, | W | P | |
| <i>Senna</i> | FABACEAE | senna | | S | |
| <i>Sidalcea</i> | MALVACEAE | checkermallow | GUW | P | |
| <i>Solanum</i> | SOLANACEAE | nightshade | G | PS | some weedy |
| Solidago | ASTERACEAE | goldenrod | GUW | P | |
| <i>Sphaeralcea</i> | MALVACEAE | globemallow | GUW | P | |
| <i>Spiraea</i> | ROSACEAE | spirea | G | S | |
| <i>Stachys</i> | LAMIACEAE | lamb's ear | GX | P | |
| <i>Stanleya</i> | BRASSICACEAE | prince's plume | GUW | P | |

| Genus | Family | Common Name | Code | Forms | Notes |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Sympytum</i> | BORAGINACEAE | comfrey | G | P | can be weedy |
| <i>Talinum</i> | PORTULACACEAE | fameflower | | P | |
| <i>Tanacetum</i> | ASTERACEAE | tansy | G | P | |
| <i>Tecoma</i> | BIGNONIACEAE | yellow trumpet bush | | S | |
| <i>Teucrium</i> | LAMIACEAE | germander | G | P | |
| <i>Thermopsis</i> | FABACEAE | false lupine, golden pea | GU | P | |
| <i>Thymus</i> | LAMIACEAE | thyme | GWF | P | |
| <i>Tilia</i> | TILIACEAE | basswood, linden | G | T | |
| <i>Tithonia</i> | ASTERACEAE | Mexican sunflower | G | A | |
| <i>Trichostema</i> | LAMIACEAE | bluecurls | W | S | |
| <i>Trifolium</i> | FABACEAE | clover | G | P | good in pastures |
| <i>Vaccinium</i> | ERICACEAE | blueberry, cranberry, huckleberry | G | S | needs acidic soil; widely attractive |
| <i>Valeriana</i> | VALERIANACEAE | valerian | GU | P | |
| <i>Verbena</i> | VERBENACEAE | verbena | GW | P | not red |
| <i>Verbesina</i> | ASTERACEAE | golden crownbeard | GUW | P | |
| <i>Veronica</i> | SCROPHULARIACEAE | speedwell, veronica | GW | P | |
| <i>Viburnum</i> | CAPRIFOLIACEAE | arrowwood, snowball bush | | S | |
| <i>Vicia</i> | FABACEAE | vetch | GU | P | good in pastures |
| <i>Viguiera</i> | ASTERACEAE | showy golden-eye | GUW | P | |
| <i>Viola</i> | VIOLACEAE | violets | GU | AP | not pansies |
| <i>Wyethia</i> | ASTERACEAE | mules ear | GUW | P | |
| <i>Zinnia</i> | ASTERACEAE | zinnia | GW | AP | not double-flowered |

RESOURCES FOR UTAH AND INTERMOUNTAIN WEST

WEB SITES

Intermountain Native Plant Growers Association, with information on the program, "Utah's Choice": [click here](#)

UC-Berkeley's "Guide to Bee-Friendly Gardens": [click here](#)

PLACES TO VISIT

Pollinator Garden at USU Campus, Logan

Conservation Garden Park at Jordan Valley, West Jordan, UT, [click here](#) for Web site

Red Butte Botanical Garden, SLC, [click here](#) for Web site

Washington County Water Conservancy District [demonstration garden](#), 1851 Dixie Drive, St. George, UT

BOOKS

Sunset Guide to Western Gardening, by Sunset Editors

Weeds of the West, by Tom Whitson

Landscaping on the New Frontier: Waterwise Design for the Intermountain West, by Susan Meyer, Roger Kjelgren, Darrel Morrison, William Varga, and Bettina Schultz

Waterwise: Native Plants for Intermountain Landscapes, by Richard Sutton, Craig Johnson, Wendy Mee, Jared Barnes, Roger Kjelgren, Teresa Cerny

Flowering Calendar for Cultivated Bee Plants - Logan, Utah in 2012

Preparing a garden, yard, orchard or park to feed a community of native bees requires not only a knowledge of suitable flowering species, but also their schedule and duration of bloom, so that pollen and nectar are available throughout the growing season.

The following table is sorted in order of bloom, from earliest to latest.

yellow circles indicate week(s) of bloom

red circles indicate peak bloom, a subjective judgement

blue plant names are great choices for Utah gardeners

red plant names are widely used for phenological (seasonal) markers (see National Phenological Network)

Sometimes multiple species of a genus are represented (e.g. several ornamental and edible onions, genus *Allium*).

Utilization by species of several common, recognizable bee genera is indicated by a green check mark in the columns at the left.

| FLOWER SPECIES | Bee genus | | | | | | | March | | | April | | | May | | | June | | | July | | | August | | | September | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|----------|-------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------|----|----|-------|---|---|-----|----|----|------|----|----|------|---|----|--------|----|---|-----------|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|---|
| | Apis | Bombus | Halictus | Osmia | Ceratina | Habropoda | Megachile | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 | |
| Galanthus | ✓ | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Crocus | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Iris reticulata | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | ○ | ○ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Forsythia | | | | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salix (pussywillow) | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Arctostaphylos | | ✓ | | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prunus (apricot) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scilla | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Viola | | | | | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Muscari | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Chaenomeles | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Prunus (plum) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Mahonia | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Cercis | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Malus (apple) | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Malus (crab) | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Prunus (cherry) | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Ribes aureum | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Pyrus (pear) | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Wisteria | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Viburnum | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Vinca | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Acer | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Syringa (lilac) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Berberis | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Caragena | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |

| Bee genus | Apis | Bombus | Halictus | Osmia | Ceratina | Habropoda | Megachile | March | | | April | | | May | | | June | | | July | | | August | | | September | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|--------|----------|-------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------|----|----|-------|---|---|-----|----|----|------|----|----|------|---|----|--------|----|---|-----------|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|
| | | | | | | | | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| FLOWER SPECIES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rosa | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sphaeralcea | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | |
| Iliamna | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Onobrychis | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gaillardia | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| Cleome serrulata | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | |
| Vicia | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Delphinium | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | |
| Coreopsis | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| Sambucus | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| Lavendula | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| Tilia | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Asclepias | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Digitalis | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Polemonium | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Callirhoe | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Medicago | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Echinacea | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Solanum | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Lamium | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hyssop | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Campanula | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Dalea purpurea | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erigeron | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tanacetum | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Viguiera | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Coronilla | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Gaura | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Alcea | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Stachys | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Hosta | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chamaebatiaria | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ratibida | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Rudbeckia | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Cucumis | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Solidago | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Origanum | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Mentha | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Trifolium resupinatum | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |

