

# Planting for the bees



By PJ Martin

If you plan on growing a garden or have fruit trees, you will need to attract as many bees as possible to help provide pollination. If you are landscaping or just planting flowers for color, you can still use plants that feed bees. Put simply the more bees the healthier the environment.

Selecting bee-friendly plants for your garden can help bring back the bees population, which is on a severe decline. Plus by helping the bees you are increasing your crop of vegetables and fruits. By helping bees you are helping yourself.

Planting herbs is a good way to attract bees and you will have a better crop of fresh herbs to use in the kitchen or to dry for later. Try planting sage, thyme, fennel, rosemary, mint, or chives in your garden or with your flowers.

Consider some of these bee-loving plants for attracting more bees. Lilac bushes are available in

several colors and give off a lovely sweet scent. Lavender has a longer blooming season and a brisk clean scent. Wisteria produces a plentiful cascade of flowers. Sunflowers are bright and come in several varieties. Others flowers to consider are Poppies, Marigolds, Black-eyed Susan, Coneflowers, Bee Balm, or Honeysuckle.

Maybe you are just planting a native area that isn't farmed or grazed by cattle but needs a cover, try more native flowering plants to attract and feed bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

Check out these websites for assistance with planting a bee-friendly area:

[www.usda.gov/media/blog/2014/05/13/helping-honey-bees-health](http://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2014/05/13/helping-honey-bees-health)

[www.americanmeadows.com](http://www.americanmeadows.com)

[www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)



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