

DID YOU KNOW?

Native Plants Help Fruits and Vegetables Thrive

Did you know native companion plants facilitate pollination of fruits and vegetables?

We depend on pollinators for most of the vegetables and fruits we enjoy from farms and our own gardens. By transferring pollen among the flowers of the same species of fruits and vegetables, fertilization occurs and makes fruit and seed development possible.

■ Non-native honeybees are important pollinators of many of our food crops, but numerous species of native bees and other pollinating insects are significant as well. In fact, many native bees—of a variety sizes and shapes—are the only insects that pollinate certain species. For example, squash bees are vital for squash flower pollination.

■ Native bees need not only nectar and pollen from fruit and vegetable flowers, but also from many native flowers. You can help support native bees and other pollinators by planting a variety of native wildflowers and native flowering shrubs and trees, including ones listed here.

■ Sustaining and increasing native bee populations with native plants helps ensure there are plenty of pollinators for the fruits and vegetables you grow!



Clockwise from top left are a native spring polyester bee (*Colletes inaequalis*) on redbud flowers, southeastern blueberry bee (*Habropoda laboriosa*) on blueberry flowers, and a small carpenter bee (*Ceratina* sp.) in a strawberry blossom.

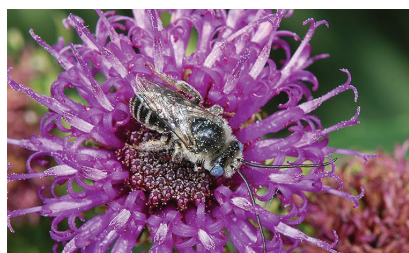
This list was created by native bee specialist Mike Arduser for the Grow Native! program ■ Photos by Ed Spevak

GARDEN PLANT	NATIVE POLLINATORS	NATIVE COMPANION PLANTS
strawberries	small-medium sized bees <i>Augochlorella</i> , <i>Augochlora</i> , <i>Lasioglossum</i> , <i>Halictus</i> , <i>Osmia</i> , <i>Ceratina</i> , <i>Andrena</i>	New Jersey tea, ragworts (<i>Packera</i> spp.), <i>Phacelia</i> spp., pale beard-tongue, wild hyacinth, common cinquefoil, golden alexanders
blackberries and raspberries	small-medium-large bees <i>Andrena</i> , <i>Halictus</i> , <i>Lasioglossum</i> , <i>Augochlorella</i> , <i>Augochlora</i> , <i>Hoplitis</i> , <i>Osmia</i> , <i>Ceratina</i> , bumblebees	New Jersey tea, indigo bush, hawthorns, wild hyacinth, Jacob's Ladder, pale beard-tongue
blueberries	medium-large bees <i>Andrena</i> , bumblebees, <i>Colletes</i> , <i>Augochlora</i> , <i>Augochloropsis</i> , <i>Lasioglossum</i> , <i>Osmia</i> , <i>Habropoda</i> , <i>Eucera</i> , <i>Anthophora</i>	redbud, plums, blue star, blue-eyed Mary, wood betony, Virginia bluebells, wild hyacinth, wild geranium, horsemint
apples, peaches, pears, and plums	medium-large bees <i>Andrena</i> , <i>Colletes</i> , <i>Halictus</i> , <i>Lasioglossum</i> , <i>Augochlora</i> , <i>Augochlorella</i>	major attractions on their own because of their size and conspicuousness

SEE REVERSE FOR VEGETABLES ►

Choose native plants. Find them from Grow Native! professional members.
See www.grownative.org for resources.

GARDEN PLANT	NATIVE POLLINATORS	NATIVE COMPANION PLANTS
tomatoes	medium-large bees bumblebees, <i>Augochloropsis</i> , <i>Lasioglossum</i> , <i>Anthophora</i>	foxglove beardtongue, pale purple coneflower, blue wild indigo, wild bergamot, purple prairie clover, germander, leadplant, tall coreopsis, obedient plant
peppers	medium-large bees <i>Halictus</i> , <i>Agapostemon</i> , <i>Augochlora</i> , <i>Augochlorella</i> , <i>Melissodes bimaculatus</i> , bumblebees	same as tomatoes (above)
eggplant	medium-large bees bumblebees, <i>Augochloropsis</i> , <i>Lasioglossum</i>	same as tomatoes (above)
green beans	medium-large bees <i>Megachile</i> , bumblebees	leadplant, purple prairie clover, butterfly milkweed, common milkweed, germander, prairie blazing star, wild bergamot
squashes	large bees squash bees (<i>Peponapis</i> , <i>Xenoglossa</i>), bumblebees, <i>Melissodes bimaculatus</i>	leadplant, purple prairie clover, germander, butterfly milkweed, common milkweed, wild bergamot, native thistles, sunflowers, tall coreopsis
cucumbers	medium-large bees <i>Halictus</i> , <i>Agapostemon</i> , <i>Augochlora</i> , <i>Augochlorella</i> , <i>Melissodes bimaculatus</i> , bumblebees	same as squashes
zucchini and melons	medium-large bees squash bees (<i>Peponapis</i> , <i>Xenoglossa</i>), bumblebees, <i>Melissodes bimaculatus</i>	same as squashes
okra	medium-large bees bumblebees, <i>Melissodes bimaculatus</i> , <i>Ptilothrix bombiformis</i>	ironweeds, prairie blazing star, woundwort, common milkweed, native thistles, sunflowers, tall coreopsis, native hibiscus



Clockwise from left are a two-spotted bumblebee on tomato flowers, a squash bee (*Peponapis pruinosa*) in a pumpkin blossom, a black and yellow bumblebee on a wild bergamot flowerhead, a brown belted bumblebee on a wild blue indigo blossom, and a long-horned bee (*Melissodes* sp.) on an ironweed flowerhead.