Creating a Bee Garden

*Check out info sheet #42 for specific information pertaining to mason bees

Lawn: Consider replacing your grass lawn with a mixed species lawn that has flowering plants like clover.

Flowers: When choosing species try to stick with plants that have low hybridization, single flower tops and are shades of blue, purple, or yellow. Plants that are hybridized or bred to be sterile produce much less pollen. Flowers that are doubles or multiples produce less nectar and the pollen is hard to reach. Bees find blue, purple, and yellow shades to be appealing. Also, native plant and wild flower species are going to attract a wider array of pollinators because they have co-existed longer and they tend to produce more pollen and nectar.

Bee Bath: Bees require a water source to stay healthy and happy. A shallow dish with pebbles or even a bird bath provides adequate water sources for bees.

Bee Homes: If you are a real bee lover consider creating not only pollen and nectar sources but a place for the bees to inhabit. Honey bees are the only bees that require hives. Other bees are either ground nesting or wood and stem nesters. Woody debris piles, untended hedgerows, open uncultivated ground, home-made or bought nesting boxes, and honey bee hives are all great options for attracting bee species.

Pesticides: Generally avoiding the use of insecticides is recommended, but if they are necessary, make sure to follow label instructions, and do not apply when flowers are in bloom and bees are foraging. Systemic insecticides can be exceptionally hard on bees, as they tend to persist within the plant even if not applied when in bloom, so at least eliminating systemic would be a great start.

Plants that Attract Bees

(Any single top flower in the aster family)

*Native

Spring Flowering

Shrubs/Trees:
- *Oregon Grape (Mahonia aquifolium)
- *Low Oregon Grape (Mahonia repens)
- *Oregon Vine Maple (acer circinatum)
- *Pacific Ninebark (Physocarpus capitatus)
- *Douglas Spirea (Spirea douglasii)
- *Blueblossom (Ceanothus thrysiflorus)

Annuals:
- Pericallis (Pericallis spp)
- Alyssum (Lobularia maritima)

Perennials:
- Pin Cushion Flower (Scabiosa spp)
- English Daisy (Bellis perrenis)
- *Big Leaf Lupine (Lupinus Polyphyllus)
- *Common Camas (Camassia quamash)

Summer Flowering

Shrubs/Trees:
- *Nootka rose (Rosa nutkana)
- *Ocean Spray (Holidiscus discolor)

Annuals:
- Sunflower (Helianthus spp)
- Zinnias (Zinnia spp)
- Calendula (pot marigold)
- Fennel (Foeniculum vulgare)
- Basil (Ocimum basilicum)
- Alyssum (Lobularia maritima)

Perennials:
- Lavender (Lavendula spp)
- Rosemary (Rosmarinus spp)
- Shasta Daisy (Leucanthemum × superbum)
- Black Eyed Susan (Rudbeckia hirta)
- Cone Flower (Echinacea spp)
- Blanket flower (Gallardia spp)
- Jerusalem Artichoke (Helianthus tuberosus)
- Tickseed (Careopsis spp)
- Asters (Aster spp)
- Thyme (Thymus vulgaris)
- Mint (Mentha spp)
- Oregano (Origanum vulgare)
- Sage (Salvia officinalis)
- Borage (Borago officinalis)
- Butterfly Weed (Ascelepis)
- Lantana (Lantana spp)
- Bee Balm (Monarda)
- Hummingbird Mint (Agastache)
- Salvia (Salvia spp)
- Yarrow (Achillea millefolium)
- *Showy Milkweed (Asclepis speciosa)
- *Douglas Aster (Symphyotrichum subspicatum)
- *Halls Aster (Symphyotrichum hallii)

Plants That Bloom into Fall

Shurbs/Trees:
- Bluebeard (Caryopteris x clandonensis)
- Chaste Tree (Vitex angus-castus)

Annuals:
- Basil (Ocimum basilicum)
- Zinnia (Zinnia spp)

Perennials:
- Hummingbird Mint (Agastache)
- Borage (Borago officianalis)
- Blanket Flower (Gallardia spp)
- Sedum (Sedum spp)
- Golden Rod (Solidago spp)
- Thyme (English, and Groundcover types)
- Spanish Lavender (Lavendula stoechas)