



Planting for Pollinators



Meadow Blazing Star (*Liatris ligulistylis*):

This plant is very showy and is a butterfly magnet - they just love this plant. Meadow Blazing Star is a great choice for a naturalized planting as it has good presence in the landscape and tends to bloom later in the season when other wildflowers are petering out. It also makes a great specimen plant for a sunny garden as it not aggressive or very seedy.

Naturally found in: Open woods and sunny meadows, sandy hillsides

Bloom Period: July - August

Soil: moist to well drained, sandy

Light: sun to partial shade



Giant Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*):

Giant Hyssop is a large leafy plant with pleasant-smelling leaves that can be used to make a tasty tea. Showy blue flower spikes are highly nectar-producing and are a Bee favorite. This wildflower is pretty easy-going and works well in the back of a garden bed or a larger naturalized space where its size and upright form make it easy to appreciate from a distance.

Naturally found in: Moist open meadows to lightly shaded sites on the edge of aspen woodlands and thickets.

Bloom Period: July - August

Soil: moist to well drained

Light: part shade to sun



Brown-eyed Susan (*Gaillardia aristata*):

Vivid yellow orange petals frame reddish brown centers of the multiple flowers blooming in clusters. This showy wildflower, also known as blanketflower, stands out in the landscape attracting butterflies, birds, bees and your attention. A great addition to any sunny well drained garden. Naturally found in: Dry open meadows, ditches and hillsides. Sometimes in open wooded areas.

Bloom Period: June - August

Soil: dry to well drained

Light: full sun



Showy Aster (*Eurybia conspicua*):

This plant will live up to its name and attract your attention with its size, larger leaves and bright showy blooms. Showy Asters would make a great addition to a larger flowerbed or naturalized planting by attracting attention in big spaces. Asters are a favorite of bees and butterflies. Plant where it has room to grow or lots of competition as it spreads by rhizomes.

Naturally found in: Moist to dry open and shady wooded sites.

Bloom Period: July - October

Soil: moist to dry

Light: full sun to light shade



Showy Milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*):

Milkweeds are an important nectar source for bees and other nectar-seeking insects, and a larval food source for monarch butterflies and their relatives. Showy Milkweed's pink flowers can be very pretty and it is a large plant potentially reaching 6' tall making it a great vista plant in large spaces. ****Warning**** Milkweed sap contains toxins which are destroyed by heat, cooking is required before ingesting. Avoid planting near livestock grazing areas. Naturally found in: Moist sunny meadows and ditches.

Bloom Period: May - July

Soil: moist to well drained

Light: full sun to light shade



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Canada Buffaloberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*):

Canada buffaloberry is a native deciduous shrub found throughout North America. This hardy, medium-sized shrub will tolerate poor soil conditions and produces attractive, edible (though very bitter) red fruit.

How it benefits pollinators: Flowers in April/May which is very early in the season, provides food for pollinators coming out of hibernation.

Soil texture: clay, loam or sand. Drainage: drier soils Light: full sun to partial shade

Height: 1-3m Width: 1-2m



Beaked Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*):

Alberta's only native nut bearing shrub. It will produce more nuts in full sun but can tolerate being in an understory. Will sucker to form dense clumps.

How it benefits pollinators: Flowers in April/May which is very early in the season, provides food for pollinators coming out of hibernation, although other species such as pussy willow provide better quality pollen.

Soil texture: clay, loam or sand. Drainage: moderate Light: full sun to partial shade

Height: 1-3m Width: 1-2m



Pussy Willow (*Salix discolor*):

One of the first plants to wake up from winter, this tall shrub signals that spring has arrived when it starts to send out its flowers in April. This willow is very fast growing under the right conditions. It also doesn't mind getting trimmed, whether by humans for branch weaving, or spring bouquets or by animals nibbling on it for food.

How it benefits pollinators: Pussy willow is essential for pollinators. It is the first food source available to them in the spring. Not only that, it has high quality pollen that lasts for a long time so it provides food for pollinators until other species are available to them later in the spring.

Soil texture: clay, loam, or sand. Drainage: moderate. Can handle flooding Light: full sun

Height: 1-3m Width: 1-3m



Chokecherry (*Prunus virginia*):

Chokecherry are very versatile shrubs, they are adaptable to all levels of sun and moisture. Not only a favorite of pollinators, other wildlife (especially birds) will happily use chokecherries for food sources. The berries can be utilized for jams and syrups.

How it benefits pollinators: Chokecherries produce a lot of flowers at a valuable time, after the willows have flowered but before other food sources are readily available.

Soil texture: clay, loam or sand. Drainage: dry-moist soils Light: full sun to shade

Height: 2-7m Width: 1-5m



Red Elderberry: (*Sambucus racemose*)

This bushy shrub has a unique leaf shape, an umbrella like canopy when mature and has showy white clusters of flowers making it very visually appealing. It's berries are highly sought after by birds in the fall who readily disperse the seeds throughout the area.

How it benefits pollinators: Flowering a little later than other native species, its June flowers provide a food source after other shrub species have finished or are winding down. It is also valuable for habitat for hibernation, as the stems are hollow and can be utilized by small native bees.

Soil texture: clay, loam, or sand. Drainage: moderate Light: full sun, partial shade

Height: 3-4m Width: 2.5m



Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*):

This shrub is very versatile, it will grow almost anywhere you want to plant it (except for dry areas). It also makes an attractive yard feature with big clumps of white flowers in the late spring months and bright red bark that stands out against the snow in the winter.

How it benefits pollinators: This shrub is a big attractant to insects as it produces a lot of pollen. It is commonly found in established vegetation areas, providing plenty of foraging opportunities for both bees and butterflies.

Soil texture: clay, loam, or sand. Drainage: moderate. Can handle flooding Light: full sun-full shade

Height: 1-3m Width: 1-3m