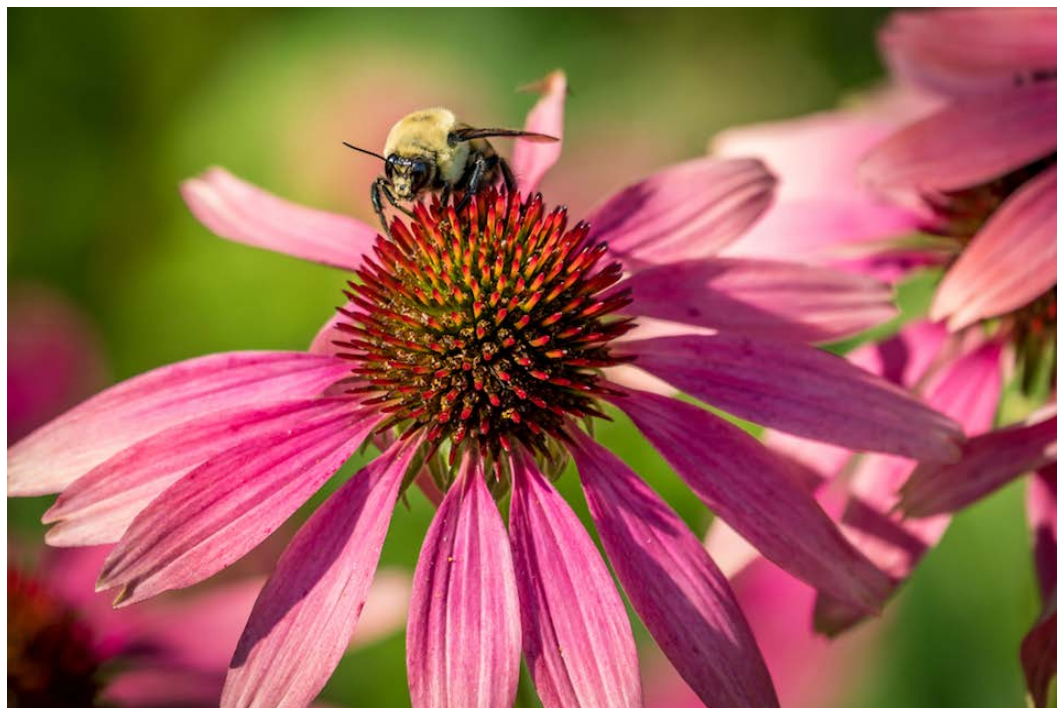


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# The Best Plants to Attract Pollinators, by Region

By [Brian Barth](#) on May 11, 2018



A bumblebee on a Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*).

*rmbrooks* on Shutterstock.

Pollinators are easy to attract to your farm or garden. There are four keys to success: don't spray herbicides or insecticides; do provide habitat; do provide a food source; and focus on native species.

The first of those is straightforward enough, and the second two are taken care of by planting nectar-rich flowers that bloom over a long period of the year. The foliage itself provides habitat—most insect pollinators like dense vegetation in which they can hide from predators and lay eggs—and the flowers provide the fuel. Plants native to your area are the best bet because they have co-evolved with the native pollinators.

The more diverse your plantings, the better, as some species are very picky. To get you started, here are a few ideas for pollinator plants native to each area of the country. Peruse the list below, and add your favorites to your

garden planning list. Want more information? Extensive regional guides can be found at [pollinator.org](http://pollinator.org), a project of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign. They even have a handy [app](#).



## Northwest

### **Silver Lupine (*Lupinus albus*)**

Flowers: blue/purple, April-May

Size/Type: 3' tall x 3' wide shrub

Sun/Water: full sun, low water

Attracts: bees

### **Hairy Honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*)**

Flowers: pink, June-August

Size/Type: 10' tall vine

Sun/Water: part shade, medium water

Attracts: hummingbirds

### **Western Buttercup (*Ranunculus occidentalis*)**

Flowers: yellow, April-June

Size/Type: 2' tall x 2' wide perennial

Sun/Water: part shade, medium-high water

Attracts: bees

**Pacific Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*)**

Flowers: white, April-June

Size/Type: 20' feet tall x 15' wide tree

Sun/Water: part shade, medium-high water

Attracts: bees, butterflies

**Flea Bane (*Erigeron spp.*)**

Flowers: various colors, June-August

Size/Type: 2' tall x 2' wide perennial

Sun/Water: full sun, low water

Attracts: bees, butterflies



Prickly Pear Cactus (*Opuntia spp.*) by [Rosa Frei](#) on Shutterstock.

## Southwest

**Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*)**

Flowers: red-orange, February-May

Size/Type: 10' tall x 10' wide shrub

Sun/Water: full sun, low water

Attracts: hummingbirds

**Parry's Agave (*Agave parryi*)**

Flowers: yellow, June-August

Size/Type: 2' x 2' perennial

Sun/Water: full sun, low water

Attracts: bees, hummingbirds, moths, bats

**Jimson Weed (*Datura wrightii*)**

Flowers: white, May-October

Size/Type: 2' tall x 2' wide perennial

Sun/Water: full sun, low water

Attracts: moths

**Prickly Pear Cactus (*Opuntia spp.*)**

Flowers: yellow, April-June

Size/Type: 6' tall x 6' wide succulent

Sun/Water: full sun, low water

Attracts: bees

**Velvet Mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*)**

Flowers: green/yellow, March-August

Size/Type: 30' tall x 20' wide tree

Sun/Water: full sun, low water

Attracts: bees, butterflies



Tiny Coral Hairstreak Butterfly feeding on Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) by [Sari ONeal](#) on Shutterstock.

## Midwest

### **Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)**

Flowers: yellow/orange, May-July

Size/Type: 2' tall x 2' wide perennial

Sun/Water: full sun, medium water

Attracts: butterflies, hummingbirds

### **Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)**

Flowers: purple, June-August

Size/Type: 2' tall x 2' wide perennial

Sun/Water: full sun, medium water

Attracts: bees, butterflies

### **Sumac (*Rhus spp.*)**

Flowers: white, April-August

Size/Type: 8' tall x 8' wide shrub

Sun/Water: full sun, low water

Attracts: butterflies, bees

**Meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*)**

Flowers: white, June-September

Size/Type: 6' tall x 6' wide

Sun/Water: full sun, medium-high water

Attracts: bees

**Wild Indigo (*Baptisia spp.*)**

Flowers: blue/purple, March-June

Size/Type: 4' tall x 4' wide

Sun/Water: part sun, medium-low water

Attracts: bees

## Southeast

**Threadleaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata*)**

Flowers: yellow, May-July

Size/Type: 2' tall x 2' wide perennial

Sun/Water: full sun, low water

Attracts: bees, butterflies

**Wild Petunia (*Ruellia humilis*)**

Flowers: purple/blue, May-June

Size/Type: 3' tall x 3' wide perennial

Sun/Water: part sun, low water

Attracts: butterflies, hummingbirds

**Passion Flower Vine (*Passiflora incarnata*)**

Flowers: multi-colored, May-July

Size/Type: 10' tall vine

Sun/Water: full sun, medium water

Attracts: hummingbirds, butterflies

**Painted Buckeye (*Aesculus sylvatica*)**

Flowers: white, April-May

Size/Type: 12' tall x 12' wide shrub

Sun/Water: shade, medium-high water

Attracts: bees, hummingbirds

### **Sweet Goldenrod (*Solidago odora*)**

Flowers: yellow, July-October

Size/Type: 3' tall x 3' wide perennial

Sun/Water: full sun, low water

Attracts: bees, butterflies



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Honeybee on a Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) by [Marek Walica](#) on Shutterstock.

## Northeast

### **Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)**

Flowers: white, May-June

Size/Type: 6" tall x 6' wide groundcover

Sun/Water: part sun, low water

Attracts: bees

### **Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)**

Flowers: red, August-October

Size/Type: 3' tall x 3' wide perennial

Sun/Water: part sun, high water

Attracts: bees, hummingbirds



**Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)**

Flowers: yellow, June-September

Size/Type: 2' tall x 1' wide perennial

Sun/Water: full sun, medium water

Attracts: bees, butterflies

**Virgin's Bower (*Clematis virginiana*)**

Flowers: white, July-August

Size/Type: 10' tall vine

Sun/Water: part sun, medium-high water

Attracts: bees

**Mapleleaf Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*)**

Flowers: white, May-June

Size/Type: 5' tall x 5' wide shrub

Sun/Water: part sun, medium water

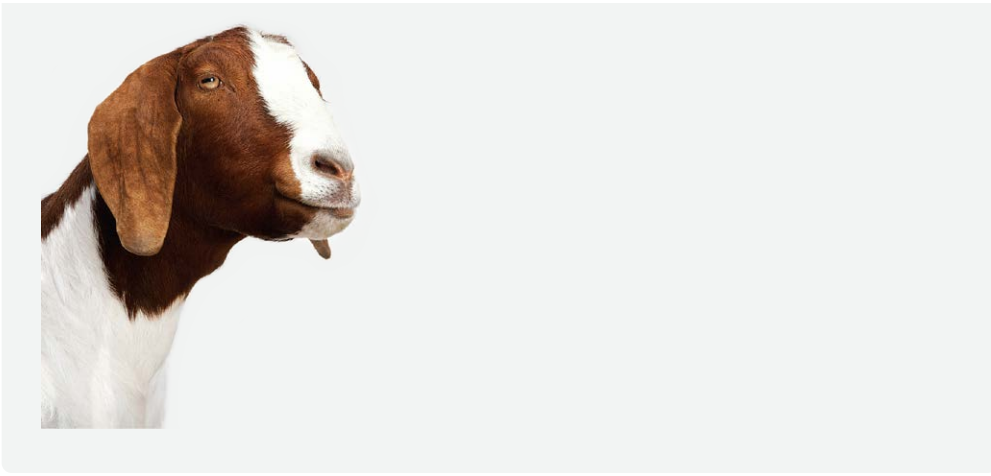
Attracts: bees

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