

# BEES & FLORAL RESOURCES

Floral resources are a critical component to wild bee conservation. Bees rely on these resources for food, nesting materials, and beyond. Gardens, parks, hedgerows, and other green spaces have the potential to contribute to the success of bee species.



This garden contains a wide array of flowering plant species, many of which are native. Photo by Nicole Bell.



A male *Melissodes denticulatus*, or Denticulate long-horn bee, forages on joe-pye weed (*Eutrochium dubium*). Photo by David Mantack.

## RESOURCES BEES COLLECT FROM FLOWERS:

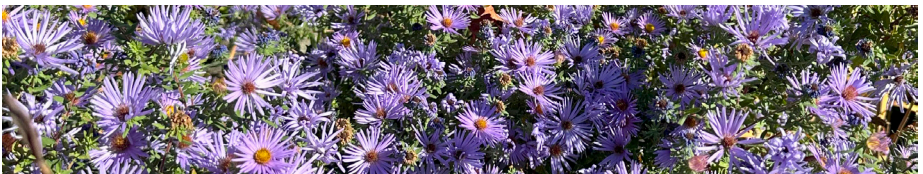
**Pollen** serves as the primary protein source for bees, particularly developing offspring. Most female bees collect pollen; males do not collect pollen, but sometimes consume it.

**Nectar** is the main carbohydrate source for bees, used in part to power adult flight.

**Resins** are collected for nest construction, their microbial properties, and more.

**Leaves & petals** are collected by leafcutter bees, and trichomes by wool carder bees, for nest construction.

**Floral oils** are used by some bee species (*Macropis* sp.) to provision their offspring, in place of nectar.



# THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN PLANTING FOR BEES:

**Variety.** This includes a variety in flowering plant species, flower height and shape, as well as a mix of annuals, perennials, and woody trees & shrubs.

**Bloom time.** Different bee species are active during different times of the year. To support bee species richness, aim to have something in bloom from early spring through fall.

**Native status.** Native flowering plant species are important for both native bee species, as well as conservation. Ornamental species can also provide forage, but may not be as well suited to all native bee species.

**Site suitability.** Factors like sun, shade, soil texture, climate, aspect, drought tolerance, and beyond will impact the success of flowering plant species and the subsequent availability of resources for bees. In addition, young plants may need cages if they are favored by bunnies and/or deer.



Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) visited by *Stelis louisae*, a parasitic bee. A variety of bees visit this plant to forage for nectar. Photo by David Mantack.



A sweat bee forages inside of a native penstemon. Photo by Nicole Bell.

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