

Trees for Bees!

Expand your Michigan trees & shrubs for native pollinators



Create a buzz in your yard or farm field edges with these woody additions to your landscape. Some selections below offer preferred nectar and pollen as food sources. When adding plants for food try to extend the periods of time flowers are blooming. Bountiful flowers from early spring through fall provide year-round food sources.

Other trees on this list offer hollow stems, used for nesting by 30% of our native solitary bees. All of these trees are available for sale now at Missaukee Conservation District's *Seedling Sale*. Call 231-839-7193 or visit us to purchase online at <http://missaukeecd.org/>.

Hardwoods

Wild Black Cherry – early season flower source for mason, miner and bumble bees, & other pollinators

Red Maple – early season flower source for bees, miner bees, butterflies, and other pollinators

Sugar Maple – early season flower source for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators

Black Willow (aka Swamp Willow) – early blooms for bees, miner bees, butterflies, and other pollinators

Small Trees and Large Shrubs

American Plum (aka Wild Plum) – spring white blooms for bees, bumble bees, and butterflies

Shadblow Serviceberry (aka Juneberry) – early season white blooms for bees and other pollinators

Common Choke Cherry – late spring food source for bees and pollinating flies

***Common Elderberry** – provides nesting places for native bees

***Red Elderberry** – provides nesting places for native bees

***Konza Fragrant Sumac** - blooms for bees, butterflies and other pollinators

Nannyberry – late spring blooms for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators

Shrubs and Ground Cover

Arrowwood Viburnum – early summer blooms for bees and other pollinators

Bearberry – excellent pollinator value for bumble and mason bees

Black Chokeberry – early summer blooms for bees and other pollinators

Gray Dogwood – summer blooms for bees, bumble bees, butterflies and other pollinators

Red-osier Dogwood - summer blooms for bees, bumble bees, butterflies and other pollinators

Silky Dogwood - summer blooms for bees, butterflies and other pollinators

Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle – mid-late summer blooms for bees, bumble bees, and moths

American Mountain Ash – late spring blooms attracts large numbers of native bees

New Jersey Tea – a pollinator magnet with summer blooms for bees, butterflies and other pollinators

Common Ninebark - mid-late summer blooms for bees, butterflies and other pollinators

Winterberry (aka Michigan Holly) – summer blooms for bees

Fruit— These offer food/shelter for bees, producing a more robust crop due to insect pollinator visits.

Strawberries - self fertile, but a bigger berry results from bee pollination

Blueberries - spring flowers feed bumble bees and native solitary bees, and result in higher berry yield

***Raspberries** - self fertile, but a bigger berry results from bee pollination; old hollow canes used for nesting by solitary native bees

* denotes a plant that native bees nest beneath, within, or harvest parts from to construct their nests

Native bee shelter:

These plants have hollow or “pithy” stems:

Blackberry

Raspberry

Roses

Sumacs

Elderberries

Thistles

Big blue stem and other grasses.

...or make “bee houses” from paper tubes or holes drilled into untreated timber.

When adding trees to your yard, plant the right tree in the right place. Check soil, sun and water conditions of your site compared to the tree's preferences to ensure your seedlings thrive. Refer to our catalog for details on each species. If you have questions, please call our office to discuss your goals and our staff will be happy to make recommendations.