

Possible native and non-native pollinator attractants in Fairbanks by Pat Holloway

University of Alaska Fairbanks
Georgeson Botanical Garden
School of Natural Resources and Extension
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For the past 30 years we have compiled a list of plants and potential plant pollinators at the GBG. This list is simply based on observation, not on counts of pollen loads or pollen germination. It is a guide to plants that appear to attract known pollinators and might be considered in wildflower meadows, guard rows, gardens and natural areas to promote a diverse population of insects. It is not complete and is an ongoing project.

Native Plants

Alder (<i>Alnus</i> spp.)	mourning cloak butterfly	early season pollen
Arnica (<i>Arnica</i> sp.)	swallowtail butterfly, painted ladies, honey bees, beetles	species differ in bloom times, one or another kind of arnica is blooming from late May through August
Beauverd Spiraea (<i>Spiraea stevenii</i>)	mourning cloak butterfly, syrphid fly	June
Birch (<i>Betula neoalaskana</i>)	Mourning cloak butterfly	early season pollen
Bunchberry (<i>Cornus canadensis</i>)	syrphid flies, beetles, moths	June
Chives, (<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>)	syrphid flies, flies, andrenid bees	mid to late June through JULy
Cinquitoil (<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>)	flies, syrphid flies, honey bees, bumble bees	all summer

Cottonwood, <i>Populus balsamifera</i>	swallowtail, mourning cloak butterfly	early season
Currants, red (<i>Ribes triste</i>) and black wild (<i>Ribes hudsonianum</i>)	honey bee, solitary bees	early season
Dragonhead mint (<i>Dracocephalum parvoflorum</i>)	syrphid flies, andrenid bees	mid summer
Fireweed (<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>)	honey bees, bumble bees	premier honey plant in AK, premier host of hummingbird moth caterpillars
Goldenrod, <i>Solidago multiradiata</i> , <i>S. decumbens</i>	bumble bees, honey bees, andrenid bees	late season source
Jacob's ladder (tall, <i>Polemonium acutiflorum</i> , and beautiful (<i>P. pulcherrimum</i>))	andrenid bees, honey bees, swallowtail butterflies	mid season
Kinninnick, <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	bumb bee, wasps	early season
Labrador tea (<i>Ledum decumbens</i> , <i>L. groenlandicum</i>)	bees, beetles, syrphid flies, butterflies	late May, early June
Lingonberry, lowbush cranberry (<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>)	bumble bee, syrphid fly, honey bee, wasps	not the best attractant
Lupine (<i>Lupinus arcticus</i> , <i>L. nootkatensis</i>)	bumble bees	mid to late season, food of clouded sulphur butterfly larvae
Milk vetch, <i>Astragalus</i> spp.	honey bees	June
Raspberry (<i>Rubus idaeus</i>)	bumble bee, honey bee,	first half of summer
Redosier dogwood (<i>Cornus sericea</i>)	honey bee	mid JUne
Serviceberry, saskatoon (<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>)	honey bees, bumble bees	early season nectar and pollen

Shepherd's purse, (<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>)	western white butterfly	all season
Shooting star (<i>Dodecatheon</i> spp.)	honey bees, wasps	June
Siberian Aster (<i>Aster sibiricus</i> , <i>Euribium</i>)	syrphid flies, solitary bees,	late season
Tansy mustard (<i>Descurainia sophioides</i>)	western white butterfly	mid summer
Wild Blueberry, (<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i>)	bumble bee, wasp, syrphid flies, honeybees, andrenid bees	early season; not very attractive to bumble and honey bees; if something else is blooming, they won't get much attention
Wild iris (<i>Iris setosa</i>)	bumble bees, swallowtail butterfly	late June bloomer
Wild Potato (Eskimo potato)(<i>Hedysarum alpinum</i>)	bumble bees	early season bloomer
Wild rose (<i>Rosa acicularis</i>)	beetles, honey bee, bumble bee, syrphid flies	great late June pollen source
Wild sweet pea (<i>Hedysarum mackenzii</i>)	bumble bees, solitary bees (leafcutter)	June
Willows, most members of <i>Salix</i> genus	honey bees, mourning cloak butterflies	very early source of pollen for most native and non-native bees
Yarrow, <i>Achillea millefolium</i> , <i>A. borealis</i> , <i>A. sibirica</i>	syrphid flies, painted lady, clouded sulphur butterflies	all summer

Non-native plants (avoid double blooms; they often have less pollen)

<i>Achillea</i> (<i>Achillea millefolium</i> cultivars)	flies, syrphid flies, butterflies	mid to late summer
Bachelor's buttons (<i>Centaurea cyaneus</i>)	honey bee	mid to late summer
Bird (hairy, purple) vetch, <i>Vicia cracca</i>	honey bees, bumble bees	considered invasive
Black-eyed susan (<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>)	honey bee	late summer
Borage (<i>Borago officinalis</i>)	painted lady butterflies,	mid to late summer
Buckwheat, (<i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i>)	many types of bees	also attracts beneficial insects
California poppy (<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>)	honey bee	great mid season bloomer
Calendula (<i>Calendula officinalis</i>)	painted lady butterflies	all season bloomer
Canola, rapeseed, <i>Brassica rapa</i>	honey bees	promotes fast crystallization of honey
Catmint (<i>Nepeta</i> spp)	honey bee, syrphid flies,	many species of annual and short lived perennials
Cherries: All members of <i>Prunus</i> (Mayday tree, <i>Prunus padus</i> , chokecherry, <i>P. virginiana</i> , Russian almond, <i>Prunus triloba</i> , Ussurian plum, <i>Prunus ussuriensis</i>)	honey bees, andrenid bees, wasps, andrenid solitary bees	favorite of Canadian yellow swallowtail, honey and bumble bees; will attract insects away from other plants

Chives, (<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>)	syrphid flies, andrenid bees	mid June through July
Clover (white dutch, <i>Trifolium repens</i> , alsike, <i>T.hybridum</i> , red, <i>T.pratense</i> , sweet clover <i>Melilotus spp</i>)	honey bees, bumble bees, painted lady butterflies	sweet clover considered invasive, food of clouded sulphur butterfly larvae
Columbine, <i>Aquilegia spp.</i>	bumble bee	mid to late season
Comfrey, (<i>Symphytum officinale</i>)	painted lady butterflies, honey bees, bumble bees	mid to late summer
Coriander, (<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>)	honey bees, syrphid flies	June through August
Cosmos (<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>)	honey bee, bumble bee, syrphid flies	mid to late summer
Crabapples (<i>Malus spp</i>) all kinds	honey bee, bumble bee, wasps, syrphid flies	early season pollen and nectar source
Currants, Red, black and white cultivars (<i>Ribes spp</i>)	honey bee, wasps	early season
Delphinium, larkspur (<i>Delphinium sp.</i>)	bumble bees, honey bees	late June through Aug
Dianthus (many species of annual and biennial pinks)	hawkmoths (hummingbird moths)	mid to late summer
Dragonhead (<i>Dracocephalum moldavicum</i>)	syrphid flies, honey bee	mid to late summer
Gaillardia, blankeflower (<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>)	honey bee, bumble bee, butterflies	mid to late summer
Gooseberry, (<i>Ribes grossularia</i>)	honey bees, bumble bees	early season
Heliotrope	honey bees, syrphid flies	

Honeyberry (<i>Lonicera caerulea</i>)	bumble bees	shrub edible fruits, very early season bloomer
Lambsquarter, (<i>Chenopodium album</i>)	painted lady and western white butterfly Caterpillars	mid season
Lilac (<i>Syringa</i> spp.)	hawkmoths (hummingbird moths), swallowtail butterfly, bumble be	mid season
Lupine (<i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i> and others)		cultivars are not as attractive as the wild species
Mint (<i>Mentha</i> spp)	flies, wasps, andrenid bees	only if allowed to bloom and not harvested for herb
Mustards, <i>Brassica</i> sp.	honey bees, bumble bees, syrphid flies	all those things that bolt in your garden such as Chinese cabbage, black mustard)
Onions, flowering such as Welsh (<i>Allium fistulosum</i>) and Altai onions (<i>Allium altaicum</i>)	syrphid flies, honey bees	mid summer bloomer covered with insects
Oregano, <i>Oreganum</i> spp.)	bumble bee	if allowed to bloom
Phacelia (<i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i>)	bumble bee, honey bee, andrenid bee	often included in non-native wildflower mixes
Raspberry, (<i>Rubus idaeus</i>)	bumble bee, honey bee,	June, July
Rosemary, (<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>)	honey bees, bumble bees, andrenid bees	mid to late summer if at all; if you're an herb person, you often pick off the flowers
Salvia (<i>Salvia</i> spp.)	honey bees, bumble bees	many species of ornamental and edible salvias
Serviceberry, saskatoon (<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>) both native and non-native cultivars	honey bees, bumble bees	early season source of nectar and pollen
Siberian Peashrub, <i>Caragana arborescens</i>	bumble bees, honey bee	considered invasive in some locations

Siberian squill (<i>Scilla sibirica</i>)	honey bee, bumble be	interesting bright blue pollen, early season
Snapdragon (<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>)	honey bees, bumble bees	mid to late summer
Sunflowers (<i>Helianthus annuus</i> , <i>H. maximiliana</i>)	honey bees, bumble bees, Sweat, Andrenid bees, painted lady butterflies	not the pollen-less cultivars or ones with double petals
Sweet Alyssum (<i>Lobularia maritima</i>)	syrphid flies, sweat bees	blooms all summer
Tatarian honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>)	bumble bees, honey bees	early season nectar
Veronica (<i>Veronica</i> spp.)	honey bees, syrphid flies	mid to late summer
Viiper's bugloss ,(<i>Echium vulgare</i>)	honey bee, syrphid fly	often in non-native wildflower mixes
The University of Alaska Fairbanks Georgeson Botanical Garden, PO Box 757200, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775 (907)		