Attracting Native Bees

Information adapted from a presentation given by Dr. Joseph Wilson

A lot of what you may know about bees is specific to one species: the Honey Bee. Honey bees are an important part of this country's agriculture industry, with over 2.5 million colonies. Their pollination services in 2000 were valued at $14.6 billion. We can all appreciate what honey bees do for us, but did you know there are over 4000 native bee species in North America, and that these native species are very different from the honey bee?

Honey bees live in large colonies in hives, have a long flight season, and they make
honey. In contrast, most of the native bees are solitary, live in pre-existing cavities, have a short flight season, and they don’t make honey.

Studies have shown that the pollination work that would take 100 honey bees to do can be accomplished by just two native mason bees. So, in some cases, native bees can be more efficient pollinators. Regardless, the pollination work done by both honey bees and native bees is beneficial, and attracting more native bees to your yard has value.

There are approximately 750 species of native bees east of the Mississippi, but there are around 1100 species found right here in Utah! If you are interested in attracting more native bees to your yard, it is important to provide both a food source and habitat for them.

**Food**

Some bee species are specialists that are only attracted to specific flowers, while others are less picky. Native flowers are more likely to attract native bees because that is what they have evolved with, but having a large variety of flower types will likely attract more species of bees. Click on the following link for an article with a list of [Plants for Native Bees](https://mailchi.mp/82b936e377fa/attracting-native-bees).
Some bees nest in the ground, so leaving small areas of open ground in parts of your yard will provide habitat for them. Other bees prefer to nest in holes in wood, so creating a bee block or a nest box will provide habitat for them. Click on the following link for information about Building a Bee Hotel.

Bees in Your Backyard

---

**Youth & Kids' Class Kits**

Keep the learning going this summer by claiming these free class kits for youth and kids! Pre-register for the kits using the links below, choose your pick-up location at registration, then stop by and pick up the kits between 9:00 am and noon on the specified dates.

**Pick-Up Locations**

- Duchesne CUWCD Office
- Heber CUWCD Office
- Orem CUWCD Office
- Pleasant Grove Rec Center
West Jordan - Conservation Garden Park

If the registration fills for any kit, a waiting list will be created. Kits not picked up on the pick-up date will then be offered to those on the waiting list.

Quantity is limited. Only one kit per household allowed per class.

---

Youth Class Kits
Ages 11-14

**Lawn Care**
Wednesday, June 9
[Details & Registration]

**Landscape Design**
Wednesday, June 23
[Details & Registration]

**Awesome Plants**
Wednesday, July 7
[Details & Registration]

---

Kids' Class Kits
Ages 4-10

**Waterwise Wizards**
Plant Highlight

Russian Sage

*Perovskia atriplicifolia*

Often mistaken for a giant lavender plant, this attractive perennial thrives in low-water situations. The silvery-green foliage makes a nice contrast to the airy purple-blue flower spikes that emerge on top in the summer. The flowers
Attracting Native Bees

(Buddleia), Coneflowers (Echinacea), and Butterfly Weed (Asclepias).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Type</th>
<th>Perennial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mature Size</td>
<td>3-4’ T &amp; W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Requirements</td>
<td>Full Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardiness Zones</td>
<td>5-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Free Online Classes

**Localscapes University**  
Saturday  
June 12 @ 10:00 am  
[Details & Registration](#)

**Planting Bed Design**  
Saturday  
June 19 @ 10:00 am  
[Details & Registration](#)

**Design Workshop**  
Saturday  
June 26 @ 10:00 am  
[Details & Registration](#)
You received this email because you have either signed up on the CUWCD email list, attended one of our classes or events, or you have participated in the smart controller and/or toilet rebate program.

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.