



CENTRAL UTAH WATER
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT



Attracting Native Bees

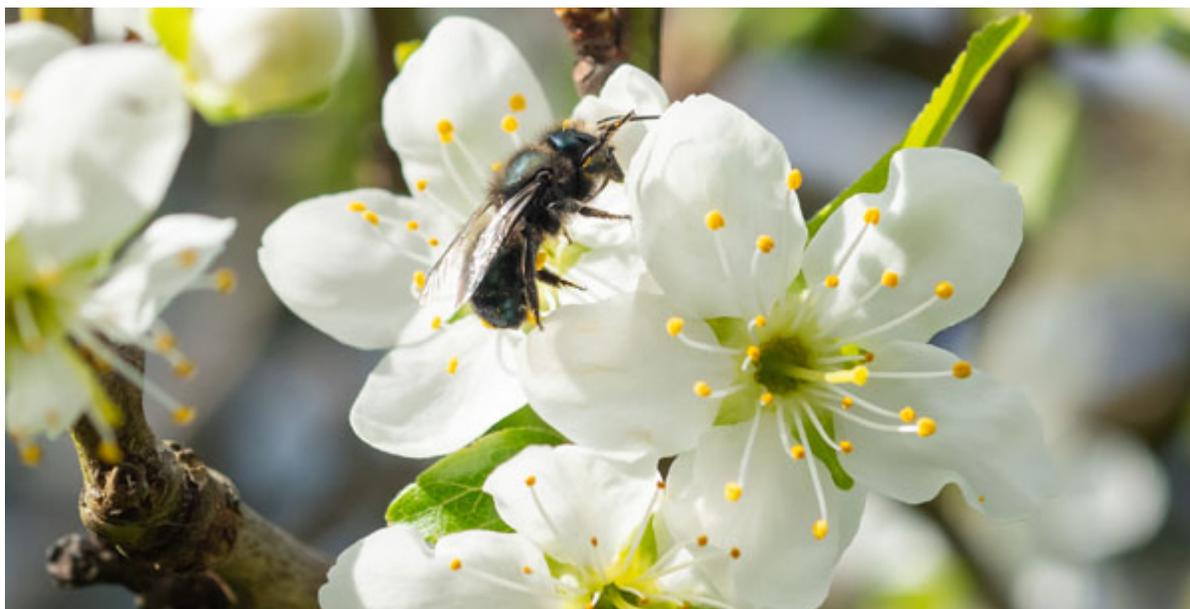
Information adapted from a presentation given by Dr. Joseph Wilson

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

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](#).

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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

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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

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The Water Cycle

Wednesday, June 30

[Details & Registration](#)

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

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

Plant Type: Perennial

Mature Size: 3-4' T & W

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Hardiness Zones: 5-9

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](#)

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