

Rosmarinus officinalis	Rosemary. Evergreen, aromatic.	Apr–May	NP
Salix spp	Willows. Early spring Numerous small shrubby willows. Good species include: <i>S. apoda</i> , <i>S. boydii</i> , <i>S. hastata</i> , <i>S. lanata</i> , <i>S. melanostachys</i> , <i>S. uva-ursi</i>		NP
Symphoricarpos spp	Snowberries. Most produce copious amounts of nectar. <i>S. alba</i> , <i>S. occidentalis</i> , <i>S. orbiculatus</i> , <i>S. Rivularis</i>	Jun–Aug	NP
Syringa spp & hybrids	Lilacs. Wide range of medium & large shrubs, mostly spring flowering, all strongly scented.	Spring	NP
Tamarix spp	Feathery foliage, profuse masses of tiny, pink flowers. Varying flowering times from	May–late summer	NP
Ulex europaeus , <i>U. Minor</i>	Gorse. Long flowering periods.	May to late summer.	N? P
Viburnum spp	Wide range of evergreen & deciduous shrubs. Good species include:		
<i>V. bodnatense</i> , <i>V. fragrans</i>	Deciduous, winter flowering, scented.	Winter	NP
<i>V. burkwoodii</i>	Evergreen, scented.	Apr	NP
<i>V. carlesii</i>	Scented.	Apr	NP
<i>V. juddii</i>	Scented.	Apr–May	NP
<i>V. opulus</i>	Guelder rose.	Jun–Jul	NP
<i>V. tinus</i> , <i>V. laurustinus</i>	Evergreen.	Oct–Mar	P
Weigela florida & hybrids	Pink, red or white flowers.	May–Jun	N P?
Wisteria spp	Climbers. <i>W. floribunda</i> & <i>W. sinensis</i>	Apr–May	(N)P

Bush Fruits

Most bush fruits are valuable bee plants, some producing copious nectar (marked §). Flowering time varies with the variety.

§Bilberry	Whortle berry	Black, red & white currants
§Blackberries	Wild & cultivated	
Blueberries		
Gooseberries		
Hybrid berries:	Boysenberry, Worcester berry, Jostaberry	
§Raspberry & Loganberry		

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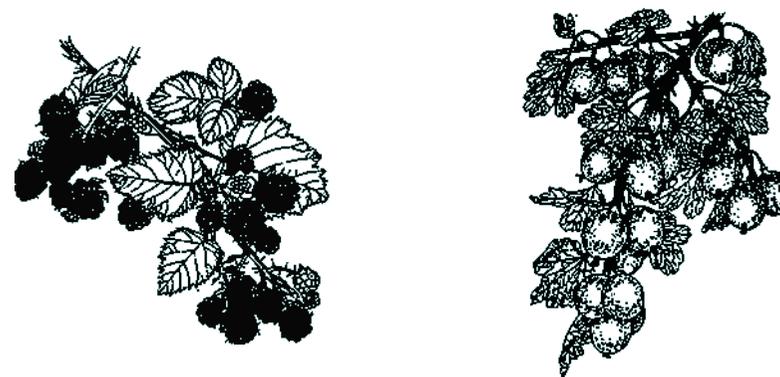
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The British Beekeepers' Association
The National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire CV8

British Beekeepers Association Advisory Leaflet



Shrubs useful to Bees



This leaflet lists a number of shrubs (defined as a perennial plant not growing normally on an single trunk) useful for providing pollen and/or nectar for bees and other pollinating insects.

The list includes a wide range of plants suitable for a range of habitats, including small and large gardens and some may also be found in the wild. Brief details are given of the less common species.

All will normally flower in the UK, although some will need a good summer to flower well. In most cases pollen production is relatively reliable, but nectar production is not, being more affected by the soil and weather.

There is an increasing number of species now being grown in the UK which originate from hotter countries and these may be especially variable in flowering and nectar production. Many of these are not reliably hardy in colder parts of the country but with warmer summers and milder winters some of these plants can be grown far more widely, and may produce more nectar in good weather.

Key to list:

** tender. * not reliably hardy. Spp = species.
(N) = nectar produced when weather good enough.
N = nectar collected. P = pollen collected.

**Abutilon vitifolium	May–Jul	NP	
	Soft grey/green vine shaped downy leaves, large saucer-shaped flowers, various colours		
Berberis spp	Apr–Jul	NP	
	Wide range of species, all attractive to bees.		
Buddleia alternifolia	Jun	NP	
<i>B. globosa</i>	May	NP	
<i>B. x weyeriana</i>	Jun–Oct	NP	
*Ceanothus spp NP			
	Wide range of species, all attractive to bees. Range from spring to late summer flowering.		
Chaenomeles spp	Feb–Apr	NP	
Cistus spp	May–Jul	NP	
	Evergreen. Range of colours.		
*Choisya ternata ‘	Apr–Jun	P	
	Mexican Orange Blossom’ Evergreen.		
Clematis spp			
	Climbers. Most large flowered hybrids only produce pollen.		
<i>C. armandii</i>	Apr–May	(N)P	
<i>C. Cirrhosa</i>	Dec–Feb	NP	
<i>C. vitalba</i>	Jun–Jul	NP	
Clethra alnifolia	Aug–Oct	P	
Cotoneaster spp	Jun	NP	
Cytisus spp		NP	
	Brooms. Wide range of species & hybrids, mostly early flowering.		
Deutzia spp	Summer	P	
*Escallonia spp & hybrids		NP	
Eschscholtzia spp			
	Late summer–autumn N Unusual lovely shrubs, mint-scented leaves, flowers various colours. Good nectar producer.		
*Fuchsia magellanica	Late summer	N	
Genista spp	Early	NP	
*Hebe spp		NP	
	Wide range of sizes from dwarf to large, evergreen, NP flowering periods vary from early summer to late. Some very tender species.		
Helianthemum spp & hybrids		P	
	Sun roses. Evergreen dwarf shrubs, many colours.		
Hydrangea			
	Only those varieties with fertile florets are used by bees, not the sterile ones (Hortensia).		
showy			
<i>H. petiolaris</i>	Jun	NP	
<i>H. paniculata</i> and <i>H. villosa</i>	Late summer	NP	
Hedera helix		NP	
	Ivy. Climber, evergreen. Good source of late nectar.		
Kalmia spp	Jun	NP	
	Calico Bush Evergreen, acid soils.		

K. angustifolia, K. latifolia

Kolkwitzia amabilis		May–Jun	NP
	Uncommon shrub, easy to grow, beautiful drooping bell-shaped flowers.		
Lonicera spp			NP
	Honeysuckles. Shrubby honeysuckles have smaller more open flowers, with more available nectar than the climbing varieties. Some flower late winter.		
	<i>L. angustifolia, L. standishii, L. purpusii</i>		
Mahonia spp		Winter/spring	P
	Evergreen shrubs with yellow flowers. Valuable pollen source early in the year.		
	<i>M. aquifolium, M. bealei, M. japonica, *M. lomariifolia</i>		
*Myrtus communis		Late summer	(N)P
	Evergreen, fragrant flowers.		
Olearia spp			
	Daisy bushes.		
<i>O. Haastii</i>		Jul–Aug	NP
<i>O. macrodonta</i>		Jun	NP
Parthenocissus quinquefolia			
	Virginia creeper.		
Perovskia atriplicifolia		Aug–Sep	NP
	Aromatic grey foliage & purple/blue flowers. Excellent bee plant		
Philadelphus spp		Jun–Jul	NP
	Mock Orange. Large number of species and varieties, most strongly scented.		
Potentilla fruticosa			NP
	Many varieties & hybrids. Small shrubs, White or yellow flowers. Long flowering period.		
Prunus laurocerasus		Apr	NP
	Cherry laurel. Evergreen. Also has extrafloral nectaries, very attractive to bees in summer.		
Prunus lusitanica		Jun	NP
	Portugal laurel. Evergreen		
Pyracantha		May–Jun	NP
	Firethorn.		
	<i>P. angustifolia, P. coccinea</i>		
Rhododendron spp			NP
	Small varieties of rhododendron & azaleas can be worked by honey bees. can produce poisonous honey occasionally.		
<i>R. ponticum</i>			
Ribes spp			
<i>R. sanguineum</i>		Apr	NP
	Flowering Currant. Pink, red or white flowers.		
<i>R. odoratum</i>		Apr	NP
<i>R. speciosum</i>		Apr–May	NP
Rosa spp			N? P
	Only single flowered types. Wild roses & <i>R. rugosa</i> .		