

Some Pollinator Plants for Connecticut

09-09-09

The following plants are suitable for pollinator habitat as indicated below.

Plant flowering time varies depending on species, geographical location, and annual weather variations.

For the flowering dates in the table below, reported months of flowering were tabulated as follows:

E = Early (March - May); M = Mid (June-July); L = Late (August - October)

Symbols in the table indicate the number of months reported within each category:

X = all months in category; x = 2 months; - = 1 month; + = extra month in Fall

Caution = Livestock Caution -- see notes and codes at end of file

Form of plant: G=Grass; H=Herbaceous; HS=Shrubby Woody Perennial L=Legume; S=Shrub;

ST=Shrub/Tree; T=Tree; V=Vine

AGRICULTURAL PLANTS THAT ARE A GOOD SOURCE OF NECTAR AND/OR POLLEN

Scientific Name	Common Name	E	M	L	Caution	Form
<i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i>	Buckwheat		X	x	P4	H
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Alfalfa	-	X	X	P4,P5	L
<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	Alsike Clover		X	X	P4	L
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover (Dutch, Ladino, etc.)	-	X	X	P4	L
<i>Malus</i> spp.	Apples	-				T
<i>Prunus</i> spp.	Cherries, Plums	x			P1.1	T

NATIVE PLANTS THAT ARE A GOOD SOURCE OF NECTAR AND/OR POLLEN

Scientific Name	Common Name	E	M	L	Caution	Form
HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS						
<i>Actaea rubra</i>	Red Baneberry	-	-		P2	H
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Eastern Columbine	x	X		?	H
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed		X	-	P3a	H
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Orange Butterflyweed		X	x	P3a	H
<i>Aster</i> spp.	Asters			X		H
<i>Aster cordifolius</i>	Blue Wood Aster			+		H
<i>Aster divaricatus</i>	White Wood Aster			X		H
<i>Aster laevis</i>	Smooth Aster			X		H
<i>Aster lateriflorus</i>	Calico Aster			X		H
<i>Aster linariifolius</i>	Stiff-leaved Aster			x		H
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster			X		H
<i>Aster puniceus</i>	Swamp Aster			+		H
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	White Turtlehead	-	x		?	H
<i>Eupatorium dubium</i>	Joe Pye Weed	-	x		?X	H
<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>	Joe Pye Weed	-	x		?X	H
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Spotted Joe Pye Weed	-	x		?X	H
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Bone-set	-	X		Px	H
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue Flag Iris	-	X		P3	H
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	-	x		P1.4	H
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great Blue Lobelia			x	P1.4	H
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Sundial Lupine	-	X		P2	H
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot	-	-			H
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Dotted Mint	-	X			H
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i> var. <i>lac.</i>	Tall (Green-headed) Coneflower	-	x			H
<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	New York Ironweed			X		H
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Cinquefoil		X	X		HS

NATIVE PLANTS THAT ARE A GOOD SOURCE OF NECTAR AND/OR POLLEN (continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	E	M	L	.	Caution	.	Form
SHRUBS								
<i>Amelanchier stolonifera</i>	Ground-running Serviceberry	-	-	.	.		.	S
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry	-	X	.	.		.	S
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberry	-	-	.	.		.	S
<i>Aronia (Photinia) pyrifolia</i>	Red Chokeberry	-	-	.	.		.	S
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush		X	-	.	P2	.	S
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Common Winterberry	-	-	.	.	P3b	.	S
<i>Rosa carolina</i>	Carolina Rose		X	.	.		.	S
<i>Rosa palustris</i>	Swamp Rose		X	.	.		.	S
<i>Rosa virginiana</i>	Virginia Rose	-	X	.	.		.	S
<i>Salix discolor</i>	Pussy Willow	X		.	.		.	S
<i>Spiraea alba</i> var. <i>latifolia</i>	White Meadowsweet		X	x	.		.	S
<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i> var. <i>tom</i>	Steeplebush; Hardhack		x	x	.		.	S
<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	Lowbush Blueberry	x	-	.	.		.	S
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Highbush Blueberry	-	-	.	.		.	S
<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	Maple-leaved Viburnum	-	X	.	.		.	S
<i>Viburnum alnifolium</i>	Hobblebush	-	X	.	.		.	S
<i>Viburnum cassinoides</i>	Wild Raisin	-	X	.	.		.	S
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry	-	-	.	.		.	S
<i>Viburnum recognitum</i>	Northern species of Arrowwood		X	.	.		.	S
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Shadbush; Common Serviceberry	x	-	.	.		.	ST
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Shadblow; Canadian Serviceberry	x	-	.	.		.	ST
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Allegheny Serviceberry	x	-	.	.		.	ST
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Sweet Pepperbush		-	x	.		.	ST
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood		-	.	.		.	ST
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Panicled Dogwood; Gray Dogwood	-	-	.	.		.	ST
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red-osier Dogwood; Red-twig Dogwood	-	x	-	.		.	ST
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch-hazel			+	.		.	ST
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	X		.	.		.	ST
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Common Elderberry		X	.	.	P2	.	ST
<i>Sorbus americana</i>	American Mountain-Ash	-	X	.	.		.	ST
TREES								
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	x		.	.	P1.2	.	T
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple	X	-	.	.		.	T
<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>	Pin Cherry	X	-	.	.	P1.1	.	T
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Chokecherry	x	-	.	.	P1.1	.	T
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American Basswood		X	.	.		.	T

WEEDY PLANTS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PLANTING, BUT IF ON SITE ARE USEFUL

** indicates not native to Connecticut; * indicates that genus includes non-natives

Scientific Name	Common Name	E	M	L	Caution	Form
<i>Tridens flavus</i>	Purpletop			X		G
<i>Apocynum</i> spp.	Dogbane		X	-	P1.3	H
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common Milkweed		X	-	P3a	H
** <i>Coreopsis</i> spp.	Coreopsis		x			H
** <i>Helianthus</i> spp.	Wild Sunflowers		x	x		H
<i>Rubus</i> spp.	Wild Blackberries/Raspberries	-	X			H
** <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan		X	X		H
* <i>Solidago</i> spp.	Goldenrods			X		H
<i>Verbena hastata</i> var. <i>hastata</i>			-	x		H
* <i>Viburnum</i> spp.	Viburnums	-	X			S
<i>Rhus</i> spp. (shrubs)	Sumacs		X			ST
* <i>Salix</i> spp.	Willows	x				ST
** <i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Northern Catalpa	-	-			T
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras	x	-			T
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper		X	-		V
* <i>Vitis</i> spp.	Grape		-			V

SMALL HERBACEOUS PLANTS COSTLY TO PLANT, BUT IF ON SITE ARE GOOD

Scientific Name	Common Name	E	M	L	Caution	Form
<i>Anemone canadensis</i>		-	X			H
* <i>Aster</i> spp.	Asters			X		H
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	x	-		P2	H
<i>Erigeron philadelphicus/pulchellus</i>	Daisy Fleabanes	-	-			H
* <i>Gentiana</i> spp.	Gentians			X		H
<i>Mitchella repens</i>	Partridgeberry		X			H
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	Bloodroot	X			P2	H
<i>Trillium erectum</i>	Red Trillium	x	-			H
* <i>Viola</i> spp.	Violets	x	-			H

LIVESTOCK CAUTION NOTES & CODES

Many plants, even plants used in agriculture can be poisonous under certain conditions. Note that most poisonings (except Red Maple [horses] and Black Cherry and related species) occur when animals eat normally unpalatable forage when available forage is scarce (e.g., early in season; overgrazed conditions).

Some plants that might be poisonous are so unpalatable or so infrequently encountered on farms that no records of their harming livestock were found.

- P1 = Dangerous
- P1.1: In addition to the well-known Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), other members of the genus *Prunus* including *Prunus pensylvanica*, *Prunus virginiana*, Bird Cherries, and Peaches are highly toxic to cattle, horses, sheep, and goats. All above-ground parts of the plant are poisonous. In particular, beware the leaves (fresh or wilted) of fallen branches which provide large doses. Evergreen Photinias reported similar.
- P1.2: Partially wilted leaves of Red Maple are extremely toxic to Horses and Ponies; avoid fallen limbs in pastures.
- P1.3: Very unlikely to be eaten, but as little as 1/2 oz. can kill a horse or cow; harms sheep, also
- P1.4: Dangerous when palatable forage is scarce; rarely eaten
- P2: Dangerous, but rarely eaten
- P3: Poisonous if eaten in quantity, but rarely eaten by livestock
- P3a: Poisonous -- green or dry -- if eaten in quantity, but rarely eaten by livestock; toxicity decreases w/maturity
- P3b: Poisonous if berries are eaten in large quantity
- P4: Has been known to cause photosensitization following ingestion
- 5: Hay contaminated with blister beetles is toxic
- ?X: Relative of poisonous plant
- W: Weedy