

#### NATIVE SUMMER PLANTS:

black locust trees, milk weed, echinecea, thistle, black eyed susans, lupines, roses, sunflowers, tulip poplar trees, legumes, monarda (bee balm), butterfly weed, chicory, queen anne's lace, poppies, sage, clematis, cosmos, daisies, and impatiens

#### SUMMER GARDEN PLANTS:

basil, rosemary, lavender, wallflower, zinnias, petunias, chrysanthemums, borage, nasturtium, Allamanda (buttercup), fuchsia, and hollyhocks

It is also very important to have variety of late blooming plants in the fall, because the bees will be collecting their winter stores of honey to survive the long dearth of nectar. The bees need between 50 - 60 pounds of honey to survive the winter. They must keep the queen around 90F year round. They do not hibernate, but rather form a winter cluster and the worker bees take turns being warm near the queen and cold on the outside of the cluster.

#### NATIVE FALL PLANTS:

asters, goldenrod, mums, lillies, sedum, purple and white buddleia, and michelmas daisies

### WHY SHOULD I AVOID HERBICIDES AND PESTICIDES?

While a weed free yard and garden is promoted by chemical manufacturers, it is safer for you and the bees to provide an environment that includes wildflowers. Leave some weeds for the bees. Honeybees don't discriminate between your prized perennials and the weeds in your lawn. Weeds are wildflowers! Bees love clover and dandelions. Don't be so quick to break out the weed killer when they invade your lawn. Dandelions are fabulous early spring food for starving bees. The nectar and pollen they provide can save a hive that was on the verge of starvation from the winter.

Chemical pesticides, particularly broad spectrum ones, are harmful to bees. Neonicotinoids are a class of pesticides that affect the central nervous system of insects. They are among the most widely used insecticides worldwide, but are currently being linked to CCD. Some countries have already banned their use. Check your labels. Use pesticides conservatively, or better yet, not at all. It is estimated that only 3% of insects are actually considered pests. Pesticides kill the 97% of insects that are beneficial. If you refrain from the chemicals you will create a naturally biodiverse habitat where the beneficial insects will keep the pests in check.

### WHAT ELSE CAN I DO FOR THE BEES?

Support local beekeepers, encourage your state to continue bee research, educate yourself about how bee activity is directly connected to you, and spread the word to others!

#### REFERENCES:

[http://www.themelissagarden.com/TMG\\_Vetaley031608.htm](http://www.themelissagarden.com/TMG_Vetaley031608.htm)  
[http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/bkcd/hbbiology/seasonal\\_activit.htm](http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/bkcd/hbbiology/seasonal_activit.htm)  
[http://www.biobees.com/DownloadFree/10\\_things\\_to\\_help\\_bees\\_UK.pdf](http://www.biobees.com/DownloadFree/10_things_to_help_bees_UK.pdf)  
<http://planetsave.com/blog/blog/2009/06/26/five-things-you-can-do-to-help-the-bees/>  
[http://hubpages.com/hub/Why-saving-the-bees-is-so-imporant-for-our-world\\_](http://hubpages.com/hub/Why-saving-the-bees-is-so-imporant-for-our-world_)  
<http://www.xerces.org>  
<http://www.thehoneybeeproject.com>  
<http://nativeplants.msu.edu/pdf/E2985ConservingNativeBees.pdf>  
[http://garden.lovetoknow.com/wiki/A\\_List\\_of\\_Spring\\_Flowers](http://garden.lovetoknow.com/wiki/A_List_of_Spring_Flowers)  
<http://www.squidoo.com/rural-living--organic-gardening>  
[http://www.ehow.com/list\\_6520302\\_flowers-pollinated-insects\\_.html](http://www.ehow.com/list_6520302_flowers-pollinated-insects_.html)

#### RESOURCES:

Gardens on the Prairie 3242 West 169th Avenue, Lowell, IN 46356-7035 (219) 690-0911  
Online at [www.gardensontheprairie.com](http://www.gardensontheprairie.com)  
Prairie Moon Nursery. Online at <http://www.prairiemoon.com/>  
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Online at [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org).