

Gardening for Pollinators with Annual Bedding Plants, Herbs, Bulbs and Minnesota Native Annuals

Many of these plants are available in either seed packets or plugs at local nurseries and farmer's markets, others can be found on line or in catalogs. Always ask if plants or seeds have been treated with pesticides.

Please note: Unless specified, these plants are not native to Minnesota but will supplement the diets of our pollinators. **Native plants are the best way to support wildlife**, resources on page four.

Our list was screened by experts for invasive status in regions in and around Minnesota. As climate changes, the last thing we want is to promote use of a plant that could escape into our natural areas and threaten what little natural habitat remains. **We all need to be cautious** and ask that you **please check invasive status** for any new plant you add to your garden, regardless of where you live and garden.

ANNUALS & TENDER PERENNIALS					
Prepared by Pollinator Revival , updated March 2016 for Minnesota gardeners. (Note: <i>Bombus spp</i> are bumblebees) *Notation from Elaine Evans, U of M Bee Lab **Recommended by Ian Lane, U of M Bee Lab					
Common	Botanical	Origin	Notes	Hardiness	Attracts
Baby Blue Eyes**	<i>Nemophila menziesii</i>	California, Baja	Ian Lane, U of M Bee Lab, called this to our attention; Short, sun or part sun, works well at garden edges	Annual	Bees, Bombus, Butterflies
Cleome; Spider Flower	<i>Cleomaceae hassleriana</i> (tall); <i>C. sorrulata</i> (short)	North and South America, Asia	Formerly <i>Capparaceae</i> ; Tall, full sun	Annual	Bees, Butterflies, Hummingbirds
Coleus	<i>Plectranthus scutellarioides</i>	SE Asia, Malaysia	Allow this to bloom, will be surprised at the number of visitors	Annual	Bombus, Hummingbirds
Fuchsia	<i>Fuchsia triphylla</i>	Caribbean region	Moist shade, great container plant for hanging baskets	Annual	Bees, Hummingbirds
Impatiens	Various colors	Mediterranean region	Note: DO NOT plant Himalayan Impatiens, they re-seed aggressively and migrate into natural areas	Annual	Bombus, Hummingbirds
Larkspur; Rocket Larkspur	<i>Delphinium agacis</i> ; <i>D. consolida</i>	Southern Europe	Also know as <i>Consolida ambigua</i> or <i>Consolida agacis</i>	Annual	Bees, Bombus*, Butterflies, Hummingbirds
Johnny Jump Up; Wild Pansy	<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Europe	Host plant for Fritillary and Hairstreak butterflies	Annual	Bees
Marigold	<i>Tagetes</i>	North and South America	Marigold is a common name for more than one species, it is helpful to learn latin names to get the right plants	Annual	Bees, Flies, Bombus
Marigold, Pot	<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	Southern Europe, Mediterranean region	Edible petals, natural dye	Annual	Bees, Flies, Bombus
Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum minus</i> ; <i>T. majus</i>	Central and South America	Clumping or vine; Full sun part shade; edible leaves and flowers – adds a peppery taste when used in salads; easy to start from seed	Annual	Bees, Bombus, Flies
Pansies	<i>Viola tricolor sect Melanium</i>	Europe	Cool season, may rebloom in fall; Edible flowers and leaves; host for Fritillary butterflies	Annual	Bees, Bombus, Flies*

ANNUALS & TENDER PERENNIALS, continued

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Common	Botanical	Origin	Notes	Hardiness	Attracts
Phacelia, Lacy**	<i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i>	North America	Ian Lane, U of M Bee Lab, called this to our attention. Likes sweet soil (alkaline)	Annual	Bees, Bombus, Flies
Iceland Poppy	<i>Papaver nudicaule</i>	Arctic regions North America and Euroasia	Note: Do not recommend planting California Poppy, see page four	Short lived perennial, grown as annual	Bees, Bombus, Flies
Salvia	<i>S. coccinea</i> Red	Central America	Several other varieties available as annual bedding plants	Tender perennial, hardy zones 8-11	Bees*, Hummingbirds
Snapdragon	<i>Plantaginaceae antirrhinum majus</i>	Europe, North America, North Africa	Host: Common Buckeye butterfly larvae	Tender perennial	Bombus**, Flies, Hummingbirds
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	North and South America	Many varieties to choose from, pick one that fits in your garden plan	Annual	Bees*, Bombus, Hummingbirds, Butterflies, Moths
Sunflower, Mexican	<i>Tithonia diversifolia</i> ; <i>T. rotundifolia</i>	Eastern Mexico; Central America	Use insecticide soap to manage aphids, make your own with Dawn original dish soap and water, 2:100	Annual	Bees, Bombus, Flies, Butterflies, Hummingbirds
Sweet Pea	<i>Lathyrus odoratus</i>	Mediterranean region	Look for heirloom varieties	Annual	Bees*, Flies, Hummingbirds
Zinnia	<i>Z. elegans</i> ; <i>Z. augustifolia</i> ; <i>Z. pumila</i> ; <i>Z. haageana</i>	Central/South America	Avoid varieties where petals are so thick they inhibit access to pollen. Many varieties, including: Red Cap; Purple Prince (heirloom 1949); Lilliput Mix; Cherry Queen; California Giants (heirloom 1919); Cut-And-Come Again, Persian Carpet, Pixie Sunshine	Annual	Butterflies, Hummingbirds, Beneficial Insects

HERBS

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Common	Botanical	Origin	Notes	Hardiness	Attracts
Basil	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	Asia, Nem Guinea	Allow to bloom	Annual	Bees
Borage	<i>Borago officianalis</i>	California, Arizona, Mexico	Blue flower	Annual	Bees*
Mints, various	<i>Mentha</i>	See page 4 for mints that are invasive in parts of the U.S.	Some mints are perennial, others annual or tender perennial, select carefully or plant in containers; Mints that are perennial are often aggressive	Tender perennials, altho some are hardy	Bees*
Lavender	<i>Lavandula augustifolia</i>	Mediterranean region, Canary Island	May survive mild winters if covered	Tender perennial	Bees*

BULBS

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Common	Botanical	Origin	Notes	Hardiness	Attracts
Dahlia	<i>Dahlia hortensis</i>	Mexico, Central, South America	Tubers were grown as food crop by Aztec; choose varieties in which petals do not crowd out stamen	Tender bulb	Bees, Bombus, Butterflies
Hyacinth	<i>Hyacinthus</i>	Mediterranean region	Spring bulbs are early source of food for pollinators	Hardy bulb	Bees
Indian Hyacinth, Wild Hyacinth	<i>Camassia leichtlinii</i>	North America (western mountain region)	May naturalize in our region as climate changes	Hardy Zone 5-9	Bees
Crocus	<i>Crocus sativus</i>	Mediterranean region	Iris family	Hardy bulb	Bees, Bombus, Flies
Daffodils	<i>Narcissus</i>	Mediterranean region	Rabbits do not like Daffodils	Hardy bulb	Bees, Bombus

MINNESOTA NATIVE ANNUALS AND BIENNIALS

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Common	Botanical	Origin	Notes	Hardiness	Attracts
Black-Eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Minnesota; L48 and Canada	Watch for basal rosette growth fall or spring, move to desired location; 2-3" inflorescence	Biennial; short lived perennial	Bees*
Brown-Eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>	Minnesota; Eastern and Central US	Watch for basal rosette growth fall or spring, move to desired location.; 1-2" inflorescence	Biennial; short lived perennial	Bees
Jewelweed, Spotted Touch-Me-Not	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	Minnesota; L48 and Canada	Reseeding annual; likes moist woodland areas	Annual	Bees*
Partridge Pea	<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	Minnesota; Eastern and Central US	Good crop cover; reseeds on sandy, disturbed sites (formerly known as <i>Cassia fasciculata</i> , member of the pea family)	Annual	Bees, Bombus
Prairie Fleabane	<i>Erigeron strigosus</i>	Minnesota; L48 and Canada	Often pulled when weeding garden, if allowed to bloom, it will attract pollinators	Annual	Bees*, Flies*
Tall or American Bellflower	<i>Campanula americanum</i>	Minnesota; Eastern US and Ontario, Canada	Tall biennial (learn to identify seedlings) with blue flowers; likes shade Host: <i>Megachile campanulae</i>	Biennial	Bees**, Bombus*, Butterflies, Hummingbirds
Venus' Looking Glass	<i>Triodanis perfoliata</i>	Minnesota, North and South America	Reseeding annual with small, violet flowers; Full sun, does well in poor soil Host: <i>Colletes brevicornis</i> **	Annual	Bees**, Bombus, Flies, Butterflies

[Beyond Pesticides.org](http://BeyondPesticides.org) has good information on harmful pesticides and natural or manual alternatives.

PollinatorRevival.org has information on neonicotinoids and [tips](#) for managing your garden pests without harming pollinators, beneficial insects, birds, other wildlife, water and soil health. Like us on [Facebook](#) for updates and information on research and public policy forums to protect pollinators.

WE DO NOT RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING PLANTS

Many plants attract pollinators, however, several popular plants are aggressive or have invasive tendencies and are restricted in parts of the U.S. Still available in our garden centers, ***we discourage gardeners from adding any plants that may escape our gardens and displace native habitat***, especially when there are so many other choices that supplement the diets of pollinators and birds.

ALYSSUM, SWEET (<i>Lovularia maritima</i>); escaped in MN; listed in Invasive Plant Atlas of U.S.	HIMALAYAN IMPATIENS (<i>I. Glandulifera</i>); escaped in MN; listed in Invasive Plant Atlas of U.S.
BABYSBREATH (<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>); escaped in MN; listed in Invasive Plant Atlas of U.S.	LANTANA (<i>L. camara</i> ; <i>L. montevidensis</i>); popular for color in containers; on Global Top 100 list for invasive status
BACHELOR BUTTONS , also known as CORNFLOWER (<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>); escaped throughout U.S.; listed in Invasive Plant Atlas of U.S.	MALLOW (<i>Malva neglecta</i> ; <i>M. parviflora</i>); escaped throughout Midwest; listed in Invasive Plant Atlas of U.S. Note: Annual Mallow (<i>M. lavatera</i>) is native to southern regions of North America
BUTTERFLY BUSH (<i>Buddleja davidii</i>); escaped in MI and IL; listed in Invasive Plant Atlas of U.S.	MARIGOLD, WILD (<i>Tagetes minuta</i>); invasive in southern, coastal regions of U.S., listed in Invasive Plant Atlas of U.S.
CALIFORNIA POPPY (<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>); native in parts of U.S., displacing other native species outside its natural habitat.	MINTS : Spearmint (<i>Mentha spicata</i>); Pennyroyal (<i>M. pulegium</i>), Peppermint (<i>M x piperita</i>), Apple-Mint (<i>M x villosa</i>); escaped in MN, listed in Invasive plant Atlas of U.S.
SWEET CLOVER, WHITE & YELLOW (<i>Melilotus alba</i> & <i>M. officianalis</i>); listed on Midwest Invasive Plant Network. N. America list of invasive clovers include: Dutch White (<i>Trifolium repens</i>), Rabbitfoot (<i>T. arvense</i>), Hop (<i>T. aureum</i>), Rose (<i>T. hirtum</i>), Red (<i>T. pratense</i>)	MORNING GLORY (<i>Ipomoea spp.</i>); generous re-seeders; regulated in MI, escaped throughout U.S.; listed in Invasive Plant Atlas of U.S.
COSMOS (<i>C. bipinnatus</i> ; <i>C. sulphureus</i>), invasive status gaining momentum in parts of the U.S.	QUEEN ANNE'S LACE (<i>Daucus carota</i>); invasive biennial throughout U.S.; listed in Invasive Plant Atlas of U.S.
DAME'S ROCKET (<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>); regulated in WI; escaped throughout Midwest; listed in Invasive Plant Atlas of U.S.	SPINY & SLENDER AMERANTH (<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> ; <i>A. viridis</i>); invasive in Southern U.S.; sited in IA and WI; listed in Invasive Plant Atlas of U.S.
FORGET-ME-NOT (<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i> ; <i>M. sylvatica</i>); escaped in MN; listed in Invasive Plant Atlas of U.S.	TANSY (<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>); escaped in much of MN; regulated in many states; listed in Invasive Plant Atlas of U.S.
GARDEN HELIOTROPE (<i>Valeriana officianalis</i>); escaped in MN; listed in Invasive Plant Atlas of U.S.	VERBENA (<i>V. bonariensis</i> , <i>tall</i>) perennial invasive in zones 7-10, beginning to re-seed in zone 5; Also <i>V. incompta</i> , <i>V. montevidensis</i> ; listed in Invasive Plant Atlas of U.S.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ON NATIVE PLANTS & INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

[Checklist of Common Invasive Plant Species](#)

by Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (Minnesota)

[Midwest Invasive Network \(MIPN.org\)](#)

[Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States](#)

[Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#)

[Minnesota Wildflowers](#)

[The Xerces Society](#) for Invertebrate Conservation

[U of M Bee Lab Pollinator Plant Guide](#) by Elaine Evans

[Pollinators of Native Plants](#) by Heather Holm

[Wild Ones, Native Plants, Natural Landscapes](#)

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