The Pollinator Garden: www.foxleas.com

Pollinator-friendly Flowers for Bedding or for Containers

Classic bedding plants such as Petunias, Begonias, Busy Lizzies, Pelargoniums, scarlet Salvias and double-flowered French Marigolds are notorious because none of them is attractive to pollinators.

The good news is that there **are** many annuals and small perennials that are attractive to pollinators, but you will probably have to grow them yourself from seed, as they are mostly unavailable (as plants) in garden centres. Fortunately most of these are very easy from seed; look for 'hardy annuals' in a seed catalogue or in the seed rack at a garden centre. Many of those in the 'Annuals' list below will grow from seed simply scattered on the soil in spring and lightly raked in (but please read the instructions on the seed packet first!)

The second list below recommends perennials, concentrating on smaller kinds suitable for containers.

Note that so-called 'double' flowers (i.e. those where the pollen-bearing stamens have been replaced by rows of extra petals) should **always** be avoided. The only exception to this rule is *Zinnia,* where flowers with extra rows of petals usually still produce pollen and nectar.

<u>Annuals</u>
Annual Candytuft *(Iberis umbellata)*
Annual Lupins (dwarf forms of *Lupinus)*
Bishop's flower *(Ammi majus)*
California Bluebell *(Phacelia campanularia)*
Clary (*Salvia horminum)*
Cornfield Poppies *(Papaver Rhoeas)* The garden strains are sometimes called 'Shirley poppies'
Cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*) : single-flowered strains only
Dwarf Bugloss *(Echium plantagineum* 'Blue Bedder'*)*
Dwarf Morning Glory or Annual Convolvulus *(Convolvulus tricolor)*
Dwarf strains of *Zinnia*
Bidens *(Bidens ferulifolia)* (a widely available hanging basket plant, choose single-flowered form only)
Fiddleneck *(Phacelia tanacetifolia)*
French Marigolds (*Tagetes patula*) : single-flowered strains only. You may have to grow yourself from seed, as the plants sold in garden centres usually have 'double' flowers.
Iceland Poppies *(Papaver nudicaule)*
Mignonette (*Reseda odorata)*
Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus)*
Poached Egg Plant *(Limnanthus douglasii)*
Sweet Alyssum *(Lobularia maritima)*
Tagetes (*Tagetes tenuifolia)*
Trailing Lobelia (*Lobelia erinus)*
White Lace Flower *(Orlaya grandiflora)*

Perennials

Aniseed Hyssop *(Agastache:* blue, mauve and white-flowered species and hybrids only)
Betony *(Stachys officinalis)*
Catmints (*Nepeta)*
Chives *(Allium schoenoprasum)* and Garlic Chives *(Allium tuberosum)*
Cinquefoils (*Potentilla*) – single flowered only.
Cranesbill (*Geranium* species and hybrids; not *Pelargonium)*
Dwarf forms of *Dahlia* : single-flowered only
Dwarf forms of Michaelmas Daisy (*Aster)*: single-flowered only
Fuchsia: single-flowered varieties only
Germander (*Teucrium* species)
Harebell *(Campanula* species*)*
Heaths and Heathers (*Calluna* and *Erica* species and varieties, but must be single-flowered)
Houseleeks *(Sempervivium*)
Hyssop (*Hyssopus officinalis)*
Indian Blanket (*Gaillardia*): single flowered only
Lavenders (*Lavandula)*
Mints (*Mentha)*
Ox Eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum*)
Rock Rose (*Helianthemum* species and single-flowered hybrids*)*
Sages (*Salvia:* blue, mauve and white-flowered species and hybrids only)
Stonecrops (*Sedum)*
Thymes (*Thymus* species)
Yarrow *(Achillea* species and hybrids*)*

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