Habitat Planting
FOR BEES

FULL SUN & PART SHADE, MEDIUM SOIL

-3 or more hours of sunlight
-intermediate moisture/mesic; the soil drains easily while still holding a sufficient amount of moisture for plants

- 50 PLANTS, 13 SPECIES -

All species featured in this design are **LOCALLY NATIVE** to the Lynchburg, VA area to best support bees, pollinators, and other wildlife.

Planting Dimensions:

18 INCH SPACING
Area Covered: ~98 sq ft (14 ft by 7 ft)

12 INCH SPACING
Area Covered: ~45 sq ft (10 ft by 4.5 ft)

Please feel free to adjust the size, spacing, and planting arrangement as fits your area!
Once planted, these species will spread to fill in the space and will find their own natural arrangement, supporting bees and other pollinators with a healthy habitat!

4 Slender Mountain Mint
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium

2 Yellow Crownbeard
Verbesina occidentalis

3 Black-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia hirta

4 Wild Basil
Clinopodium vulgare

3 Philadelphia Fleabane
Erigeron philadelphicus

3 Yarrow
Achillea borealis

8 Broomsedge
Andropogon virginicus

4 Purpletop
Tridens flavus

3 Wild Strawberry
Fragaria virginiana

3 Hairy Thoroughwort
Eupatorium pubescens

5 Frost Aster
Symphyotrichum pilosum

5 Early Goldenrod
Solidago juncea

3 Common Milkweed
Asclepias syriaca

This species will spread to form larger colonies in the planting and support native bees!

PREPARING YOUR SITE FOR PLANTING

When turning a section of lawn into a habitat planting, remove any non-native grass. This can be done by digging it up, tilling the area, or smothering a section of grass with cardboard or burlap. Use a hand tool to break up heavily-compacted soil right around your planting hole. No amendments or fertilizers should be added. If there are any natives already present in the area (such as Common Blue Violets), leave them undisturbed and plant around them. The bees will thank you!

LOCALLY NATIVE PLANTS FEATURED IN THIS DESIGN:

Slender Mountain Mint

A bushy perennial with narrow leaves and many white flowers in June-August.. Attracts large amounts of pollinators, including many bees. Grows 2-3 ft tall. Deer resistant.

Wild Basil

A member of the mint family. Bumble bees are a key visitor of Wild Basil's flowers, which bloom in July-September. The blooms are arranged in an airy habit on large, round heads. Grows 1 ft tall. Deer resistant.

Broomsedge

This 3-4 ft tall grass is a green/blue color in the summer, turning golden in fall and winter. It keeps its upright structure during the cold months and, as a bunching grass, provides habitat for bumble bee queens. Deer resistant.

Hairy Thoroughwort

Small white flowers bloom in flat-topped clusters on this species and attract many visitors, including native bees, wasps, beetles, butterflies, and moths. Blooms in July-September. Grows 2 ft tall. Deer resistant.

Common Milkweed

A sturdy plant with fragrant pink flowers, Common Milkweed hums with bee life during its June-August bloomtime. This species spreads by roots to form large groups. Grows 3-4 ft tall. Deer resistant.

Yellow Crownbeard

The bright flowers of this species have airy petals and are very fragrant. They are used by cuckoo bees, leaf cutting bees, and more. Blooms in August-September. Grows 3-5 ft tall. Deer resistant.

Philadelphia Fleabane

This early blooming species is used by mason bees, halictid bees, and more. Flowers are white to pink. Blooms April-June. Grows 2 ft tall. Deer resistant alternative: Lyre-leaf Sage (Salvia lyrata).

Purpletop

A warm season grass that grows 3-5 ft. Its height comes from the purple panicles that it displays in an airy formation in July- October. Bumble bees use bunching grasses for nesting and to overwinter. Deer resistant.

Frost Aster

A late-blooming, bushy species with a long flowering period of around 1½ months, Frost Asters are used by long-horned bees and others. Blooms in September-November. Grows 3-4 ft tall. Deer resistant alternative is Grey Goldenrod (Solidago nemoralis).

Why Create a Habitat Planting for Bees?

Native bee populations are declining due to habitat loss, pesticides, and introduced diseases. These important pollinators need locally native plants in order to fulfill their life cycle, and even a small patch of natives can make a big difference!

Black-eyed Susan

The cheerful blooms attract a wide variety of bees, including some types of andrenid bees that specialize in using this plant. Flowers in May-July. Grows 2-3 ft tall. Alternative deer resistant option is Spotted St. John's Wort (Hypericum punctatum).

Yarrow

The flat-topped heads of Yarrow consist of many white flowers and have a long bloomtime that bees find attractive. Leaves are lacy and fern-like. Flowers in April-November. Grows 2-3 ft tall. Deer resistant.

Wild Strawberry

A groundcover with five-petaled white flowers that are up to one inch wide. These flowers bloom early in the year and are followed by juicy, red berries Used by little carpenter bees, mason bees, and more. Blooms April-June. Grows 4-7” tall. Deer resistant.

Early Goldenrod

Early Goldenrod is a very early flowering *Solidago* species, with yellow flowers that bloom in a branching cluster. Visited by long and short tongued bees. Flowers in July-September. Grows 3-4 ft tall. Usually not touched by deer.

Seedheads & Stems

It's essential to leave stems standing through winter. The seeds are used by wildlife and will disperse to help native plant populations. The dead stems will become overwintering sites for bees and other native insects.

Consider cutting back dead stems in March or leaving them up year round. If cutting back dead stems, scatter these stems on the ground in your planting to decompose or place in a loose pile outside. If left up year round, old stems will soon be replaced with new growth.

Tips for a Habitat Planting

-**CHOOSE LOCAL GENOTYPES** for your planting instead of commercialized strains of native plants.

-WATERING: Check plants for 2-3 weeks after planting—or a few weeks longer if planting in hot, dry weather. Water only as necessary during this time. Once established, plants should not receive supplemental water.

-FALLEN LEAVES AS MULCH: Skip wood chips. Fallen leaves should be left among your habitat planting undisturbed, providing nutrients and maintaining moisture levels for native plants, while creating shelter for wildlife and insects.

-WEEDING OUT NON-NATIVES: Check occasionally for non-native intruders, hand pulling any that appear. Be careful not to weed out seedlings of native plants or natives that are coming in on their own!

-ENCOURAGE NATURE: Nature is constantly changing—and so should your bee habitat! Plants will become more or less dominant, moving around as your corridor develops. The initial layout of your planting is a starting point: your goal is to reintroduce these species —and then step back and let native plants do their work.

BEE CITY USA
Since 2019
Lynchburg

Blue Ridge Conservation

This design and planting info is courtesy of

HUMMINGBIRD HILL NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

4190 Free Union Rd Charlottesville, VA 22901
www.hummingbirdhillnatives.com

Plants in this design are available as 1 qt pots or in a mixed species plug tray from this nursery.