



#BeesLoveTrees

WHY DO BEES LOVE TREES?

Trees are more than shade providing oxygen factories. They are important habitat for native bees. The mutual love between bees and trees goes way back - even before the birds and the bees were a thing!

1. ALL TREES FLOWER

When we think of supporting bees, we often think of planting flowering annuals and perennials. But trees and shrubs also flower, and they can produce hundreds of pollen-laden flowers on just one plant!

2. EFFICIENT FORAGING

Flowering trees are one of the most concentrated pollen and nectar sources available to bees. The distance from flower to flower is minimal, providing maximum foraging efficiency.

3. EARLY SOURCE OF FOOD

At the end of winter, bees have depleted their food sources and stored energy. Trees that bloom early in spring before perennials begin to flower give a boost to bees, supplying them with much-needed pollen and nectar.

4. NESTING AND SHELTER

Dead stems provide habitat for solitary bees while cavities in trees provide shelter and nesting areas for our only social native bees - bumble bees.

WHICH TREES ARE BEST FOR BEES?

Many of our native trees can provide food, energy or shelter to bee populations, including:

EARLY SEASON BLOOMERS



Red maple
Acer rubrum

One of the first trees to produce flowers. With ample amounts of nectar and pollen which helps stimulate brood rearing and colony building.



Serviceberry
Amelanchier laevis

A small tree with white flowers in drooping clusters. Flowers give way to small, round berries that resemble blueberries in size, colour, and taste.



Ohio buckeye
Aesculus glabra

A large growing tree, laden with beautiful yellow clusters of flowers, offer immense amounts of nectar. These flowers attract everything from bumble bees to ruby-throated hummingbirds.



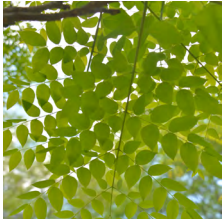
Eastern redbud
Cercis canadensis

Stunning pink flowers bloom profusely along the twigs, branches, and even the trunk. They provide abundant nectar for native bees in early to mid-spring.

WHICH TREES ARE BEST FOR BEES?

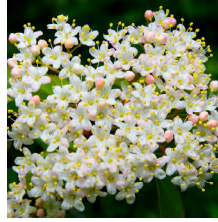
Many of our native trees can provide food, energy or shelter to bee populations, including:

MID-SEASON BLOOMERS



Kentucky coffee tree
Gymnocladus dioica

Kentucky coffee trees depend on bees, butterflies, and ruby-throated hummingbirds for cross-pollination.



Nannyberry
Viburnum lentago

Produce clusters of creamy white flowers in spring and early summer. The pollen produced attracts a number of bee species.



Tulip tree
Liriodendron tulipifera

The tulip-like flowers are key to attracting pollinators including bumble bees, long-tongued bees, and ruby-throated hummingbirds.



Black chokeberry
Aronia melanocarpa

Pollinated by smaller bees, this dense shrub has small white flowers blooming in white 5-petaled clusters in spring.

LATE-SEASON BLOOMERS



Common ninebark
Physocarpus opulifolius

Features small pink or white, five-petaled flowers blooming just when the first rush of spring flowers are over, but summer's bounty has not yet begun.



Pagoda dogwood
Cornus alternifolia

The delicate white flowers of the pagoda dogwood attract both short and long-tongued bees, and butterflies.



Grey dogwood
Cornus racemosa

The fragile dogwood andrena mining bee gets its name from its reliance on pollen from dogwood species. Grey dogwood trees grow up to 15ft - perfect for small yards.



Basswood
Tilia americana

When in full bloom with fragrant, pale yellow flowers, bees often visit in such abundant numbers that humming can be heard many feet from the tree.

ONTARIO POWER GENERATION BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM

OPG is committed to being a leader and innovator in advancing biodiversity by implementing biodiversity programs at our site communities, and creating and supporting biodiversity partnerships across Ontario.

Visit www.opg.com

LEAF

If you live in Ajax, Toronto, or York Region, you can purchase native trees and shrubs that support native bees through the Backyard Tree Planting Program.

LEAF also offers a Native Bee Garden Kit to easily create bee-friendly habitat in your yard! To learn more or place your order, visit www.yourleaf.org or call 1-888-453-6504.



#BeesLoveTrees

SUPPORTED BY
ONTARIO POWER
GENERATION
opgbiodiversity.ca