

PLANNING A LANDSCAPE WITH A CONTINUAL SUPPLY OF FLOWERING PLANTS

EXAMPLE PLANT BLOOM DATES AND INFORMAL POLLINATOR OBSERVATIONS IN LARAMIE

By Jennifer Thompson



Genus	Species/variety	Common name	Some observed pollinator visitors*	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Bulbocodium	vernus	Spring meadow saffron	honey bees							
Crocus	(many varieties)	Crocus	bumble bees, honey bees		■					
Iris	reticulata	Snow iris 'Pixie' and others	honey bees		■					
Pulsatilla	patens	Pasqueflower, native	bumble bees, honey bees		■	■				
Chionodoxa	forbesii	Glory-of-the-snow	honey bees		■					
Pulsatilla	vulgaris	Pasqueflower, non-native	bumble bees, honey bees		■	■				
Daffodil	'Jetfire'	Daffodil 'Jetfire'	bumble bees, honey bees		■	■				
Tulipa	humilis 'China Coral'; puchella 'Persian Pearl'; tarda	Tulip (botanical or species type)	bees		■	■				
Daffodil	'King Alfred'	Daffodil 'King Alfred'	bumble bees, honey bees		■	■				
Muscari	armericum	Grape hyacinth	honey bees, bumble bees		■	■				
Tulipa	'Decora'	'Decora' tulip	bees		■	■				
Tulipa	batallini 'Bright Gem'; clusiana chrysanthia	Tulip (botanical or species type)	bees		■					
Thymus	'Pink Chintz'	'Pink Chintz' thyme	bees		■					
Clematis	scottii	Sugarbowl clematis	bumble bees							then sporadic
Thymus	doerfleri 'Bressingham Pink'	'Bressingham Pink' thyme	bees							
Tulipa	'Little Beauty'	Tulip (botanical or species type)	bees		■					
Geranium	cinereum 'Purple Pillow'	Hardy cranesbill 'Purple Pillow'	bumble bees							then sporadic
Oenothera	caespitosa	White tufted evening primrose	hawk moth, bees							
Penstemon	hallii	Hall's penstemon (beardtongue)	bees			■				
Eriogonum	'Kannah Creek'	Sulfur buckwheat, 'Kannah Creek'	leafcutter bees, bees			■				
Erodium	manescavii	cranesbill	bees, bumble bees			■				
Heuchera	sanguinea 'Ruby Bells'	Coral bells 'Ruby Bells'	hummingbirds							
Nepeta	'Walker's Low'	Catmint 'Walker's Low'	honey/bumble bees, butterflies, syrphids, hummingbirds							then sporadic
Penstemon	barbatus; eatonii	Beardlip penstemon; Firecracker penstemon	bees, hummingbirds							
Salvia	'May Night'	'May Night' meadow sage	bumble bees, honey bees, leafcutters, other native bees			■				
Thymus		Thyme, culinary (french, german, etc); 'Spicy Orange'	honey bees, bumble bees, other bees			■				
Penstemon	grandiflorus	Large beardtongue	bees							
Penstemon	strictus; clutei	Rocky Mountain; Sunset penstemon	bumble bees, bees, hummingbirds							
Thymus	'Elfin'	'Elfin' thyme	bumble bees, bees							then sporadic
Stanleya	pinnata	Desert prince's plume	honey bees, bumble bees							
Penstemon	palmeri	Palmer's beardtongue (also known as Pink wild snapdragon)	bees, hummingbirds							
Dalea	pupurea	Purple prairie clover	honey bees, lots of bumble bees							
Dianthus	giganteus	Pink	bees, hummingbirds							
Gaillardia		Blanket flower	bumble bees, honey bees, leafcutter bees							
Ratibida	columnifera	Upright prairie coneflower	bumble bees, longhorn bees, leafcutter bees, digger bees							
Zauschneria	garrettii	Garrett's firechalice	hummingbird							
Callirhoe	involucrata	Poppy mallow	bumble bees							
Alcea	rosea	Hollyhock	bumble bees, honey bees, leafcutters - use petals also							
Rudbeckia	hirta	Black-eyed susan	bumble bees, bees, flies, bee fly							

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Echinacea	angustifolia	Narrow-leaf coneflower	bees, butterflies							
Veronica	spicata	Veronica or Spiked speedwell	bumble bees, bees							
Monarda	'Fireball'; 'Petite Delight'	Bee balm 'Fireball'; 'Petite Delight'	hummingbirds							
Alcea	rugosa	Hairy hollyhock	leafcutter bees, bumble bees, honey bees							
Oregano			lots!, honey bees, bumble bees, leafcutter bees, other bees, flies, etc.							
Asclepias	tuberosa; incarnata	Butterfly weed; Swamp milkweed	bees, butterflies							
Echinacea	purpurea	Purple coneflower	bumble bees, butterflies							
Solidago**	'Golden Baby'	Goldenrod 'Golden Baby'	bumble bees, honey bees, small native bees							
Mirabilis	multiflora	Colorado four o'clock (blooming will end with frost)	hawk moth							
Gentiana	parryi, septemfida hybrids	Gentians	bumble bees							
Ipomopsis	aggregata	Scarlet gilia	hummingbird							
Liatris	punctata	Dotted blazing star	bumble bees, butterflies, hummingbirds							
Sedum	'Autumn joy'	'Autumn Joy' sedum	bumble bees, honey bees, bees love it							
Salvia	azurea	Blue sage	hummingbirds, bumble bees, hawkmoths, honey bees							
Sympyotrichum**	novae-angliae 'Purple Dome'	New England aster 'Purple Dome'	honey bees, many other bees							
Colchicum	'Lilac Wonder'	Autumn crocus 'Lilac Wonder'	bumble bees, honey bees, leafcutters							
Colchium	autumnale 'Pleniflorum'; 'Rosy Dawn'	Autumn crocus 'Pleniflorum'; 'Rosy Dawn'	bumble bees, honey bees, leafcutters							

*Some informally observed pollinators in Laramie, Wyoming. There may be more pollinators that visit than are recorded here.

**Only one year's observation for bloom dates

Bloom dates and duration will vary by location in the state (elevation, temperatures, etc), type of year (hot/cool, dry/wet, etc.), and location in the landscape (plants in sunny, hot areas will likely bloom earlier than those in cooler, shadier areas).

Perennials noted to be especially attractive to a wide variety or large number of pollinators

Agastache		Choose types hardy enough for your area
Catmints	Walker's Low', 'Six Hills Giant'	Choose sterile, vegetatively propagated varieties or reseeding may be an issue
Goldenrods	'Golden Baby' and others	Some goldenrods spread vigorously via rhizomes
Globethistle	<i>Echinops</i>	Some reseed quite a bit
Lavender		Only hardy in parts of the state
Aster	New England 'Purple Dome' and many other types of asters (some species of aster are rhizomatous)	
Oregano		Varieties vary in hardiness
Penstemon	Rocky Mountain and others	Firecracker (<i>eatonii</i>) for hummingbirds
Purple coneflower	Echinacea	
Purple prairie clover		
Salvia	'May Night' or other <i>S. nemorosa</i>	Deadhead to control reseeding
Sedum	'Autumn Joy' and others	
Thymes		

Annuals – generally bloom in summer, depending on location and planting date

Calendula		
Cilantro		
Cleome	<i>serrulata</i>	Rocky Mountain bee plant
Cosmos		
Phacelia	<i>tanacetifolia</i>	
Poppies		
Sunflower		



Painted lady butterfly feeding on purple *Phlox kelseyi* flowers.
Photo: J. Thompson