


Today in the Garden
June 17, 2016

Creating a Bee Friendly Garden



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Creating a Bee-Friendly Garden

1. **Choose plants that attract bees** – Bees (and other pollinators!) love native wildflowers, flowering herbs, and many flowering fruits and vegetables.
2. **Group the same plants together** – If possible, plant an area 3ft x 3ft or larger to attract bees and plant groupings of the same plant. If not just a few wildflowers or herbs in a planter or window box will provide more foraging habitat for bees than no planting at all!
3. **Provide a long season of bloom** – Select long-blooming plants or various plants with successive blooms.
4. **Let your plants flower** - Leave the flowers on your plants as long as possible then deadhead them once they fade to promote more blooms. When possible, after harvesting herbs and vegetables in your garden leave the plants intact and allow them to go to flower for the pollinators.
5. **Provide a fresh water source** – Provide a small pan of water or bird bath with stones for bees, a dripping hose, pond, or just about any shallow water source.
6. **DO NOT use pesticides, herbicides or other chemicals in your garden or lawn** – Many common lawn chemicals are toxic to pollinators and other beneficial insects and may have widespread ecological effects beyond just killing the insect outright.
7. **Appreciate the beauty of weeds**- If possible allow dandelions, clovers, loosestrife, milkweed, goldenrod and other flowering weeds to flower – All are very important food sources for bees, especially in yards dominated by sprawling green lawns.

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