

Pollination: Plants for Year-round Bee Forage

This is an incomplete list of both wild and commercially-available plants that are important sources of pollen and nectar for bees in the South. It is important for bees, especially bumble bees, to have an unbroken succession of bloom all summer to build up their local populations. If you want to encourage bee populations, grow or encourage plants from this list so that bloom is more-or-less continuous on your property.

Bloom Season	Common Name	Type	Scientific Name	Availability	References
Feb	Red Maple	tree	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Feral	Delaplane 1991; Goltz 1987c; H. York, Jesup, Georgia, pers. obs.
Feb-Mar	Redbud	tree	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Feral	Goltz 1987c; Cane 1993
	Titi	shrub	<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>	Feral, coastal plain	Delaplane 1991; Goltz 1987b; H. York, pers. obs.
Mar	Native Blueberry	shrub	<i>Vaccinium elliotii</i>	Feral	Mitchell 1962; Cane 1993
Mar-Apr	Canola	ann.	<i>Brassica napus</i>	Commercial oilseed	K.S. Delaplane, pers. obs.
	Henbit	per. herb	<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Feral	Cane 1993
	Jessamine	shrub	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	Feral	Cane 1993
Apr	Tupelo	tree	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Feral, coastal plain river bottoms	Delaplane 1991
Apr-May	Apple	tree	<i>Malus</i> spp.	Commercial, feral	Mitchell 1962; K.S. Delaplane, pers. obs.
	Black Locust	tree	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Feral, piedmont and upper south	Mitchell 1962; Delaplane 1991; Goltz 1987a
	Blackberry	shrub	<i>Rubus argutus</i>	Feral, esp. in piedmont	Mitchell 1962; Goltz 1987b; B. Engle, The Rock, Georgia & K.S. Delaplane, pers. obs.
	Common Ajuga	per. herb	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Commercial ornamental	P.A. Thomas, pers. obs.
	Crimson Clover	ann.	<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	Commercial forage	Mitchell 1962; K.S. Delaplane, pers. obs.
	Dutch Clover	per.	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Commercial, feral	Mitchell 1962; K.S. Delaplane, pers. obs.
	Red Clover	per.	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Commercial forage	Mitchell 1962; K.S. Delaplane, pers. obs.
	Skip Laurel	shrub	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> , var. 'Schipkaensis'	Commercial ornamental	K.S. Delaplane, pers. obs.
	Tulip Poplar	tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Feral	Delaplane 1991; Goltz 1987c
May	Gallberry	shrub	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Feral, coastal plain	Delaplane 1991; Goltz 1987b; H. York, pers. obs.
	Honeysuckle	shrub	<i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i>	Feral	P.A. Thomas, pers. obs.
	Privet	shrub	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Feral, esp. in piedmont	B. Engle & K.S. Delaplane, pers. obs.
	Rhododendron	shrub/tree	<i>Rhododendron catawbiense</i>	Feral, esp. in mountains, commercial ornamental	Mitchell 1962; K.S. Delaplane, pers. obs.
May-Jun	Cabbage Palmetto	per.	<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	Feral, coastal plain	Delaplane 1991; Goltz 1987c
	Persimmon	shrub/tree	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Feral	B. Engle & K.S. Delaplane, pers. obs.
	Tallow Tree	tree	<i>Sapium sebifrum</i>	Commercial ornamental	Goltz 1987c
Jun	Heavenly Bamboo	shrub	<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Commercial ornamental	G.W. Krewer, Univ. Georgia, pers. obs.

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Jun-Jul	Bee Balm	per.	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Commercial ornamental, feral	Mitchell 1962; Goltz 1987d; P.A. Thomas, pers. obs.
	Chaste Tree	shrub/tree	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Commercial ornamental	G.W. Krewer & P.A. Thomas, pers. obs.
	Sourwood	tree	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Feral, esp. in mountains	Delaplane 1991; Goltz 1987c
	Sumac	shrub/tree	<i>Rhus copallina</i>	Feral, piedmont and upper south	Goltz 1987b; K.S. Delaplane, pers. obs.
	Sunflower	ann. or per.	<i>Helianthus</i> spp.	Commercial ornamental and oilseed	Mitchell 1962; W.J. McLaurin, pers. obs.
Jun-Aug	Brazilian Verbena	ann. or per.	<i>Verbena bonariensis</i>	Commercial ornamental	Mitchell 1962; S. Scarborough, Baxley, Georgia, & P.A. Thomas, pers. obs.
	Butterfly Bush	shrub	<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Commercial ornamental	P.A. Thomas, pers. obs.
	Crapemyrtle	shrub/tree	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> , var. 'Natchez'	Commercial ornamental	G.W. Krewer, pers. obs.
	Glossy Abelia	shrub	<i>Abelia grandiflora</i>	Commercial ornamental	Mitchell 1962; S. Scarborough & P.A. Thomas, pers. obs.
	Mountain Mint	per. herb	<i>Pycnanthemum incanum</i>	Commercial ornamental	P.A. Thomas, pers. obs.
	Purple Coneflower	per. herb	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Commercial ornamental	P.A. Thomas, pers. obs.
	Summer Phlox	per. herb	<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	Commercial ornamental	P.A. Thomas, pers. obs.
	Wood Mint	per. herb	<i>Blephilia</i> spp.	Feral	Mitchell 1962
Jun-Sep	Sweet Pepperbush	shrub	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Feral, coastal plain	D. Wade, Alma, Georgia & G.W. Krewer, pers. obs.
Jul	Buttonbush	shrub/tree	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Feral	Mitchell 1962; Goltz 1987b
Jul-Sep	American Germander	per. herb	<i>Teucrium canadense</i>	Feral	Mitchell 1962
	Cup Rosinweed	per. herb	<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	Feral	Mitchell 1962
	Milkweed	per. herb	<i>Asclepias</i> spp.	Feral	Mitchell 1962; Goltz 1986a
	Partridge Pea	ann. herb	<i>Cassia fasciculata</i>	Feral	Mitchell 1962; Cane 1993
	Redroot	per. herb	<i>Lachnanthes caroliana</i>	Feral, wetlands	G.W. Krewer, pers. obs.
Aug	Meadow Beauty	per. herb	<i>Rhexia</i> spp.	Feral	D. Wade, pers. obs.
Aug-Sep	Bush Clovers	shrub	<i>Lespedeza bicolor</i> and <i>L. thunbergii</i>	Commercial ornamental and forage	Cane 1993
Aug-Oct	Brazilian Pepper	shrub	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Feral	Goltz 1987b
	Mexican Sage	per. herb	<i>Salvia leucantha</i>	Commercial ornamental	C. Reed, Douglas, Georgia & P.A. Thomas, pers. obs.
	Mexican Sunflower	ann.	<i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>	Commercial ornamental	P.A. Thomas, pers. obs.
	Pineapple Sage	ann. or per.	<i>Salvia elegans</i>	Commercial ornamental	P.A. Thomas, pers. obs.
	Thoroughwort	per. herb	<i>Eupatorium hyssopifolium</i>	Feral	Mitchell 1962
Aug-Nov	Asters	per. herb	<i>Aster</i> spp.	Feral	Mitchell 1962; Goltz 1986c; B. Engle & P.A. Thomas, pers. obs.
	Colorado River Hemp	shrub	<i>Sesbania exaltata</i>	Commercial, feral	G.W. Krewer, pers. obs.
Sep-Oct	Goldenrod	per. herb	<i>Solidago</i> spp.	Feral	Mitchell 1962; Delaplane 1991; Goltz 1986b
	Kenaf	ann.	<i>Hibiscus cannabinus</i>	Commercial fiber	B. Baldwin, Miss. State Univ., pers. obs.