



BLACKWOOD'S

home of gardening

PLANTS THAT ATTRACT BEES TO THE GARDEN

Bees are extremely important pollination insects in the production of food crops. So much so, that it's mooted that if bees were to become extinct, mankind would starve to death in a matter of years. Attracting bees to gardens has become a popular aspect of modern-day horticulture, with "bee friendly" pesticides available on the market. Growing flowering plants that provide pollen for bees plays an important role in maintaining viable bee populations in suburban areas. This includes numerous solitary bee species which do not live in hives nor form swarms. Bee friendly gardens must always have clean water accessible for visitors.

These are just a few of the more common garden plants that can be grown for this purpose in KwaZulu-Natal.

Key:

(E) = evergreen

(I) = indigenous

(S) = seed

(B) = bulb

(D) = deciduous

(F) = fruit

(C) = climber

(H) = herb

Annuals and perennials (low growing)

Achillea millefolium (yarrow) (D)

Agapanthus praecox subsp. *orientalis* (lily of the Nile) (E) (I) - Note: all *agapanthus* attract bees

Agastache foeniculum (anise hyssop) (E) (H)

Alstroemeria x *hybrida* (Inca lily) (D)

Ammi majus (Queen Ann's lace) (E)

Asclepias tuberosa (milkweed) (E)
Asparagus officinalis (edible asparagus) (D)
Aster callistephus (Chinese aster) (E)
Aster tradescantia (Michaelmas daisy) (D)
Borago officinalis (borage) (E) (H)
Carpobrotus edulis (Hottentot's fig) (E) (I)
Clivia miniata (bush lily) (E) (I)
Cynara scolymus (globe artichoke) (E)
Digitalis purpurea (foxglove) (E)
Echinacea purpurea (cone flower) (D)
Erigeron karvinskianus (fleabane) (E)
Gaillardia x grandiflora (blanket flower) (E)
Gazania uniflora (starflower) (E) (I) - Note: all Gazanias attract bees
Helianthus annuus (sunflower) (E)
Kniphofia uvaria (red hot poker) (D) (I) - Note: all Kniphofias attract bees
Lampranthus aureus (orange vygie) (E) (I) - Note: most plants of the
vygie family attract bees
Lavandula stoechas (French lavender, Italian lavender, Spanish lavender)
(E) - Note: all Lavandulas attract bees
Lobularia maritima (sweet alyssum) (E)
Monarda didyma (bee balm) (D)
Origanum vulgare (oregano) (E) (H)
Osteospermum x hybrida (African daisy) (E) (I)
Papaver nudicaule (Iceland poppy) (E) - Note: all poppies attract bees
Penstemon x hybrida (penstemon) (D)
Plectranthus neochilus (lobster flower) (E) (I)
Portulaca oleracea Hybrids (purslane) (E)
Rosmarinus officinalis (rosemary) (E)
Rudbeckia hirta (coneflower) (D)
Salvia splendens (scarlet sage) (E) – Note: all Salvias attract bees
Scabiosa columbaria (pincushion flower) (E)
Sedum spectabile (stonecrop) (D) - Note: all Sedums attract bees
Streptocarpus hybrids (Cape primrose) (E)
Tropaeolum majus (nasturtium) (E)
Thymus vulgaris (common thyme) (E) (H) - Note: all Thymus attract bees
Verbena x hybrida (verbena) (E)
Zantedeschia aethiopica (white arum lily) (D) (I)

Shrubs and Climbers (medium to tall growing)

Aloe arborescens (krantz aloe) (E) (I) - Note: all Aloes attract bees
Buddleja davidii (butterfly bush) (D)
Buddleja salviifolia (sagewood) (E) (I)
Callistemon citrinus Hybrids (Australian bottlebrush) (E) – Note: all Callistemons attract bees
Clematis montana ‘Grandiflora’ (clematis) (D) (C)
Crassula ovata (jade plant) (E) (I)
Echium candicans (pride of Madeira) (E)
Escallonia ‘Pink Princess’ (Escallonia) (E)
Euryops virgineus (honey daisy) (E) (I)
Feijoa sellowiana (pineapple guava) (E) (F)
Hypoestes aristata (ribbon bush) (E) (I)
Leonotis leonurus (wild dagga) (E) (I)
Leptospermum scoparium Hybrids (tea bush) (E)
Melaleuca armillaris (honey myrtle) (E) – Note: all Melaleucas attract bees
Polygala myrtifolia (September bush) (E) (I)
Portulacaria afra (pork bush) (E) (I)
Rosa x hybrida (rose) (D) - Note: all Roses attract bees
Salvia leucantha (Mexican sage) – Note: all Salvias attract bees
Senecio tamoides (canary creeper) (E) (I) (C)
Strelitzia reginae (crane flower) (E) (I)
Tecoma capensis (bush honeysuckle) (E) (I)
Trachelospermum jasminoides (star jasmine) (E) (C)

Trees (tall growing)

Brachylaena discolor (coastal silver leaf) (E) (I)
Calpurnia aurea (wild laburnum) (D) (I)
Carica papaya (paw paw) (E) (F)
Citrus (E) (F) – Note: all citrus blossoms attract bees
Clerodendrum glabrum (tinderwood) (E) (I)
Combretum kraussii (forest bush willow) (E) (I) – Note: all Combretums attract bees
Dichrostachys cinerea (sickle bush) (D) (I)
Dombeya rotundifolia (wild pear) (D) (I)
Erythrina lysitemon (coral tree) (D) (I) – Note: all Erythrinas attract bees
Halleria lucida (wild tree fuchsia) (E) (I)
Magnolia grandiflora (bull bay) (E) – Note: all Magnolias attract bees

Malus domesticum (apple) (D) (F)
Nuxia floribunda (forest elder) (E) (I)
Peltophorum africanum (weeping wattle) (D) (I)
Prunus cerasifera (plum) (D) (F)
Prunus persica (peach) (D) (F)
Rhamnus prinoides (dogwood) (E) (I)
Salix caprea (goat's willow) (D) – Note: many Salix attract bees
Schotia brachypetala (weeping Boer bean) (E) (I)
Searsia lancea (karee) (E) (I) - Note: all Searsias attract bees
Syzygium cordatum (water berry) (E) (I) – Note: all Syzygiums attract bees
Vachellia karoo (sweet thorn) (D) (I) – Note: all Vachellias attract bees
Ziziphus mucronata (buffalo thorn) (E) (I)

Disclaimer:

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BLACKWOOD'S HOME OF GARDENING

ASSAGAY - 4 Bona Terra Road | 031-768 2173
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HOWICK - Yard 41, 4 Shafton Rd | 033-330 3364
PIETERMARITZBURG - 97 Chatterton Rd | 033-342 2191
RICHARDS BAY - 1 Medway Rd, Meerensee | 0 35-880 0047

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