

BEE GARDEN MODULE



FIVE 'COOL' BEES IN YOUR GARDEN

1. Honey Bee (Family Apidae, *Apis mellifera*) – 1 species



- Highly social – thousands of nestmates and a queen.
- Only bee that makes honey.
- Females carry pollen in spoon-like structures on rear leg (corbicula).
- The only bee active from Nov-Jan.

2. Bumble Bee (Family Apidae, *Bombus spp*) ~ 25 species



- Solitary phase – mated queens winter and start colonies in the spring.
- Social phase – 50-500 workers and a queen – annual nests.
- Females carry pollen in spoon-like structures on rear leg (corbicula).
- Active Jan-Nov (depending on the species).

3. Pollen Belly Bees (Family Megachilidae) ~ 150 species



- Solitary.
- Build nests above ground – repurposing narrow cavities.
- Females carry pollen on hairs on abdomen (scopa)
- Active April-September.

4. Metallic Sweat Bee (Family Halictidae) - 5 species



- Solitary/Communal
- Dig nests in the ground.
- Females carry pollen on hairs on rear legs (scopa)
- Active April-September.

5. Long-Horned Bee (Family Apidae, *Melissodes spp.*) ~ 40 species



- Solitary
- Dig nests in the ground.
- Females carry pollen on very dense hairs on rear legs (scopa)
- Males have extraordinarily long antennae
- Active July-September – visits Asteraceae

LOOK WHERE FEMALE BEES CARRY POLLEN



CORBICULA – spoon-like structure.
Pollen appears like a little lentil:



SCOPA – dense hairs on legs and abdomen.
Pollen appears to cover leg or abdomen

TEN CONCEPTS FOR BUILDING BACKYARD BEE HABITAT

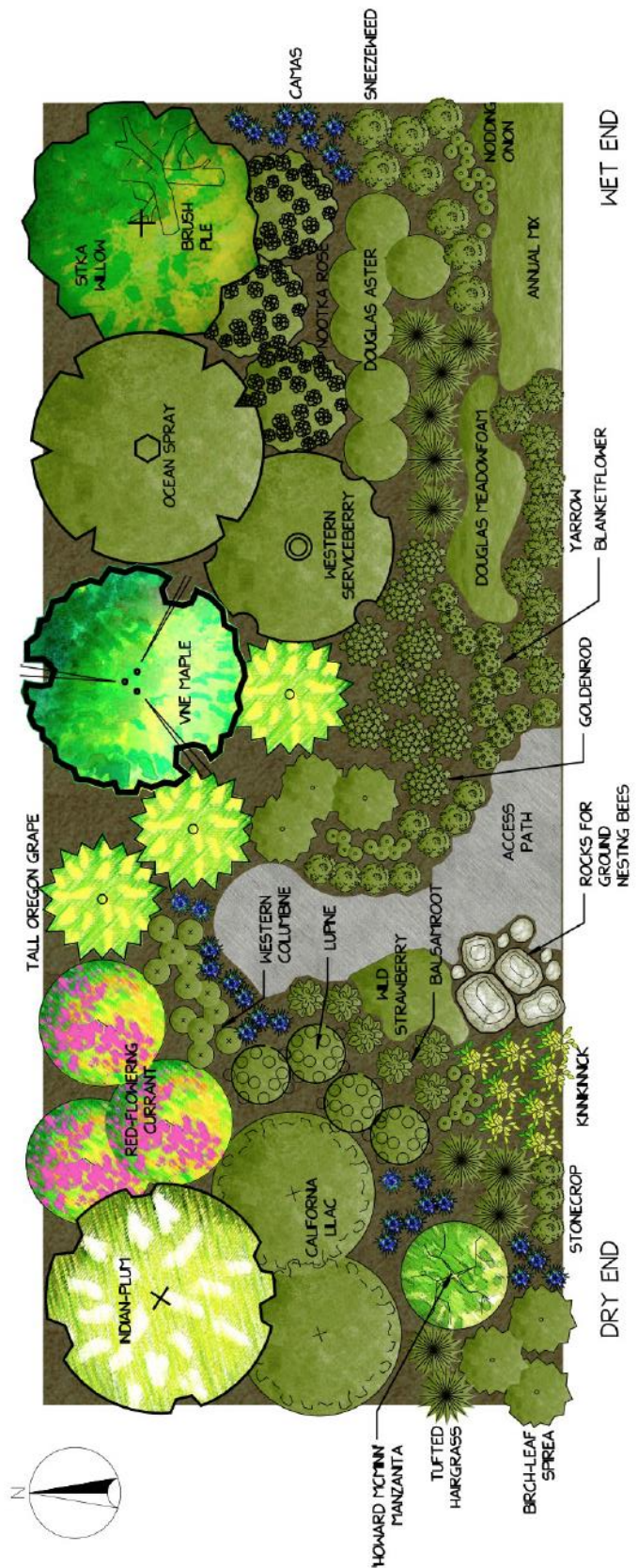
1. Have a diversity of blooming plants with different flower shapes and colors.
2. Stagger the bloom in your garden so there is always forage for bees from March to September
3. Include native plants – they tend to have better odds of attracting bees (particularly native bees).
4. When selecting exotic plants, avoid double petal varieties – bees don't like them.
5. Don't forget blooming trees – the most flowers per square foot. Also don't forget bulbs.
6. Big flowering patches of plants are more attractive than small patches
7. Dead-head fading flowers to extend the bloom.
8. Don't mulch over all the bare ground – over 70% of Oregon bees build their nests in the ground.
9. Create nesting opportunities for bees above ground by leaving stems, twigs and wood behind.
10. Don't apply pesticides to bee-attractive plants when they are in bloom.

RESOURCES

Oregonbeeproject.org/garden

Blogs.oregonstate.edu/gardenecologylab

California Bees and Blooms: A Guide for Gardeners and Naturalists (Frankie, 2014)



Willamette Valley Native Plant Pollinator Garden – Signe Danler