SOME SUGGESTED GARDEN FLOWERS FOR BUMBLEBEES

SPRING

White Deadnettle (Lamium album)*
Berberis
Bulbs: English bluebells (Hyacinthoides non-scripta)*, Crocus, Grape Hyacinths (Muscari)
Lungwort (Pulmonaria species)
Snowberry
Mahonia
Snakeshead (Fritillaria meleagris)*
Rosemary (Rosmarinus officinalis)
Cotoneaster (e.g. horizontalis)
Ceanothus
Winter Honeysuckle (Lonicera x purpusii)
Flowering Currant (Ribes sanguineum)
Redcurrants, Blackcurrants, Gooseberries*
Pussy willow (Salix)*
Thymes (Thymus)
Perennial Cornflower (Centaurea montana)
Winter Heather (Erica carnea)
Bugle (Ajuga reptans)*
Rhododendron
Pears, cherries or plums

SUMMER

Brassicas (cabbage etc) left to flower
Pea (everlasting, sweet) and Beans (runner and broad)
Foxgloves (Digitalis purpurea* and other species)
Catmint (Nepeta: many kinds)
Hyssop (Agastache)
Woundworts and Betony (Stachys species)*
Knapweeds (Centaurea scabiosa, C. nigra)*
Lupins (herbaceous and shrubby species)
Origanum vulgare* and other Origanum species
Calamintha species*
Hebe or Speedwells: Veronica* , Veronicastrum)
Sea Hollies (Eryngium : all species)
Globe Thistle (Echinops: all species)
Other thistle-like plants (Onopordum*, Cirsium, etc)
Myrtle (Myrtus communis)
Cranesbills (wild Geraniums*)
Snapdragon (Antirrhinium)
Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea)
Aquilegia vulgaris (single flowered only)*
Larkspur (Consolida: single flowered only)
Delphiniums (single flowered only)
Viper's Bugloss (Echium vulgare)*
Scabiouses (Knautia*, Scabiosa*, Cephalaria)
Honeywort (Cerinthe)
Iris pseudacorus* and I. siberica,
Lavender (esp. the tall L. 'intermedia' forms)
Sainfoin (Onobrychis)*
Purple Toadflax (Linaria purpurea)
Bell Heather (Erica cinerea)*
Chives* and ornamental garlics (Allium species)
Bellflowers or Campions (Campanulas*; wild sp.)
Comfrey (Symphytum)*
Borage (Borago officinalis)
Escallonia
Brambles* (wild or cultivated)
Raspberries and Blackberries*

LATE SUMMER

Aster Novi-angliae cultivars (hairy-leaved Michaelmas daisy), and Aster amellus and its cultivars; these two species are not invasive.
Buddleja x weyeriana (orange Buddleia)
Some Hardy Fuchsias (forms of F. magellanica)
Cornish Heath (Erica vagans)*
Sedum 'Matrona'
Culinary sage, Meadow Clary (Salvia pratensis)* and other blue-flowered Salvias
Succisa pratensis (Devil's Bit Scabious)*
Native Goldenrod (Solidago virgaurea* only) - other kinds of Goldenrod are very invasive
Marsh Woundwort (Stachys palustris)*
Single- flowered Dahlias
Helianthus x "Lemon Queen"
Strawberry Tree (Arbutus unedo)
Mallow (Malva and Lavatera)

SPECIALLY FOR POLLEN

Single-flowered wild and shrub roses, e.g. Rosa moyesii, Rosa gallica officinalis, R. 'Complicata', R. virginiana, R. canina*, R. pimpinellifolia*, R. mollis*, R. 'Frances E. Lester'; and many others
Hypericums
Single-flowered poppies (Papaver rhoeas*, P. somniferum, Meconopsis cambrica*)
Yellow Broom*, and broom-like plants (Genista, Cytisus, Dorycnium etc)

*Plants marked with an asterisk are native British flowers.

GENERALLY NOT MUCH GOOD FOR BUMBLEBEES:

Jasmine; Forsythia; Lilies (Lilium), Arum Lilies (Zantedeschia), Gladiolus; Lilac (Syringa); Magnolia; Hydrangea; Viburnum; Lobelia; Cannas; Crocosmias; Kniphophias, Phormiums, Most Penstemons, Most Umbellifers (Carrot Family: Fennel, Angelica etc,); Bearded Irises; Astilbe; Hemerocallis; Tulips; Alstroemeria.; Sunflowers; Yuccas; Pelargoniums; Pansies; Dianthus (pinks and Sweet Williams) Evening Primrose (Oenothera) Ox-Eye Daisy and most other white daisies; H.T. roses; Most bedding plants, Buddleja Davidii, Sedum 'Herbstfreude'.

Copyright © Marc Carlton/ Buglife 2007