



Spring Plants for Pollinators

13 early blooming plants

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Help Our Bumblebees in the Spring

Grow These 13 Plants to Give Them Something to Forage

Bumblebees are some of our first pollinators to emerge from hibernation in the spring. Researchers from the University of Ottawa have found that, with climate change, spring is arriving earlier in some areas of North America. Not only does this make it hard for bumblebees to keep up with this shift, some are missing out on blooms they usually rely on in early spring and others are impacted by the unpredictable weather patterns, like cold snaps. As it stands, about 28 per cent of North America's bumblebees are at risk of becoming Extinct. They need all the help they can get. That's where you come in. Plant and maintain these 13 early blooming plants to give our bumblebees a leg ...or a wing...up.

Before we dive into the plants, we've got to address dandelions. These flowers get such a bad rep, but they're a beneficial flower that pollinators benefit from early in the season in areas where native plants have been eradicated. They pop up early in the season and many pollinators, including bumblebees, use them to get them through the early spring days. So please resist the urge to dig them up or apply herbicide to them! That said, bees and other pollinators rely on native plants that they have coevolved with for adequate nutrition so, where possible, add more regionally native plants to your gardens and shrink your lawns as much as you can.

Early Blooming Flowers

Common Name	Scientific Name	Description	Range	Habitat
Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Flower Colour: Yellow Height at maturity: 20 - 60 cm	AB, BC, MB, , NB, NL, NS, NT, NU, ON, PE, QC, SK, YT	Zone: 2 Light: Full Sun, Partial Shade Moisture: Moist, Wet
Prairie Smoke	<i>Geum triflorum</i>	Flower Colour: Red Height At Maturity: 30 cm	AB, BC, MB, ON, NT, SK, YT	Zone: 3-7 Light: Sun Moisture: Dry, Moist
Pasque Flower	<i>Pulsatilla vulgaris</i>	Flower Colour: Purple Height At Maturity: 15 - 30 cm	AB, MB, ON, NT, SK, YT	Zone: 2 Light: Sun Moisture: Dry, Well Drained
Blue Cohosh	<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	Flower Colour: Dark purple to Green-brown or Yellow Height At Maturity: 30 - 90 cm	ON, NB, NS, QC	Zone: 3-8 Light: Full Shade Moisture: Moist
Yellow Trout Lily	<i>Erythronium americanum</i>	Flower Colour: Yellow	ON, NB, NL, NS, QC	Zone: 3-8

		Height At Maturity: 7 - 15 cm		Light: Partial Shade Moisture: Moist
Spotted Geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Flower Colour: Purple-pink Height At Maturity: 30 - 60 cm	ON, QC	Zone: 5-9 Light: Full Shade, Partial Shade, Sun Moisture: Moist
Virginia Bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Flower Colour: Blue Height At Maturity: 45 - 60 cm	ON, QC	Zone: 3 Light: Full Shade, Partial Shade Moisture: Moist
Woodland Phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Flower Colour: Blue, Purple Height At Maturity: 20 - 40 cm	ON, QC	Zone: 3 Light: Full Shade, Partial Shade Moisture: Moist, Well Drained
Mayapple	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	Flower Colour: White Height At Maturity: 30 - 45 cm	ON, NS, QC	Zone: 3-8 Light: Full Shade, Partial Shade Moisture: Moist
Large-flowered Bellwort	<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	Flower Colour: Yellow Height At Maturity: 30 - 75 cm	ON, QC	Zone: 3 Light: Full Shade Moisture: Moist

Early Blooming Trees

Common Name	Scientific Name	Description	Range	Habitat
Sweet Crabapple	<i>Malus coronaria</i>	Plant Type: Deciduous Tree Flower Colour: White Height At Maturity: 9 m	ON	Light: Partial Shade, Sun Moisture: Well Drained
Oregon Crabapple	<i>Malus fusca</i>	Plant Type: Deciduous Tree Flower Colour: White, Pink Height At Maturity: 6 - 9 m	Coastal BC	Light: Partial Shade, Sun Moisture: Moist, wet

Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Plant Type: Deciduous Tree Flower Colour: Red Height At Maturity: 25.0 - 30.5 m	ON, NB, NL, NS, PE, QC	Zone: 3 Light: Partial Shade, Sun Moisture: Dry, Moist, Wet
Choke Cherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Plant Type: Deciduous Tree Flower Colour: White Height At Maturity: 8 m	AB, BC, MB, NB, NL, NS, ON, PE, QC, SK	Zone: 3 Light: Partial Shade, Sun Moisture: Dry, Moist
Peach Leaf Willow	<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>	Plant Type: Deciduous Tree Flower Colour: Green Height At Maturity: 6 - 12 m	AB, BC, MB, ON, QC, SK	Light: Sun Moisture: Moist, wet

Learn more about these plant species at our [Native Plant Encyclopedia](#)