

Bee Attracting Plants for Front Range Gardens

The following are recommended plants to provide nectar and pollen for your honeybees. In the Front Range, there are abundant flowers from late May to early July. The following plants fill in the gaps beyond this time frame, ensuring bees have access to flowering plants from early spring through fall.

All of these plants are drought tolerant and once established, can survive with watering 3-4 times a month. It may take 2-3 growing seasons before plants are fully established. For best results, water plants deeply (so the soil profile is moist to 6" deep) every 7-10 days.

Early Spring Blooming

Lenten Rose (*Helleborus orientalis*)



Bloom Time: February to April
Height: 12"; **Width:** 20"
Light Requirements: Partial Sun
Notes: Many different varieties, come in a variety of colors.

Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*)



Bloom Time: January to February
Height: 6"; **Width:** 4"
Light Requirements: full sun to partial sun
Notes: Allow foliage to yellow before cutting back. Grown from a bulb – plant in fall.

Crocus (*Crocus sp.*)



Bloom Time: March to April
Height: 6"; **Width:** 12"
Light Requirements: Full to Partial Sun
Notes: Grown from a bulb – plant in fall. Most beneficial to honeybees when many (100+) are planted.

Striped Squill (*Puschkinia scilloides*)



Bloom Time: February to April
Height: 6"; **Width:** 4"
Light Requirements: Full Sun to Partial Sun
Notes: Grown from a bulb – plant in fall. Has blue pollen.

Glory of the Snow (*Chionodoxa forbesii*)



Bloom Time: February to March
Height: 6"; *Width:* 6"
Light Requirements: Full Sun to Afternoon Shade
Notes: Grown from a bulb – plant in fall. Best when planted in large masses.

Winter Aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*)



Bloom Time: February to March
Height: 4"; *Width:* 4"
Light Requirements: Full Sun to Part Shade
Notes: Grown from a tuber – plant in fall.

Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis sp.*)



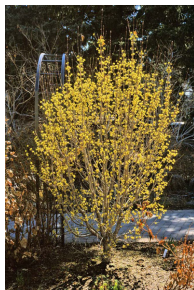
Bloom Time: January to February
Height: 15'; *Width:* 15'
Light Requirements: Full Sun
Notes: Four different species with several varieties and hybrids. Very fragrant. Ensure the plant has good drainage (avoid clay) and keep moist.

Forsythia (*Forsythia 'Northern Lights'*)



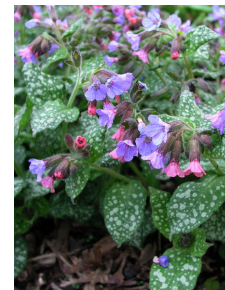
Bloom Time: March to April
Height: 84"; *Width:* 72"
Light Requirements: Full Sun
Notes: Prune stems in spring, immediately after flowering has finished. Should prune every 2-3 years to maintain attractive shape, pruning out old branches.

Cornelian Cherry (*Cornus mas*)



Bloom Time: February to March
Height: 15"; *Width:* 12"
Light Requirements: Full Sun to Part Shade
Notes: Uncommon along Front Range, but should be grown more.

Lungwort (*Pulmonaria saccharata*)



Bloom Time: March to May
Height: 10"; *Width:* 16"
Light Requirements: Partial Sun
Notes: Shown is the variety "Mrs. Moon". There are other varieties with different leaf patterns and flower colors.

Late Summer Blooming

Red Rocks Penstemon (*Penstemon 'Red Rocks'*)



Bloom Time: July to August

Height: 18"; *Width:* 15"

Light Requirements: Full to Partial Sun

Notes: Responds well to deadheading. Remove faded flowers to encourage new ones to grow.

Dotted Gayfeather (*Liatris punctata*)



Bloom Time: July to August

Height: 18"; *Width:* 12"

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Notes: Has very deep taproots and therefore does not transplant well. Buy in small pots and do not move once in the ground. There are other species of *Liatris* as well.

Autumn Joy Sedum (*Sedum 'Autumn Joy'*)



Bloom Time: late July to August

Height: 24"; *Width:* 18"

Light Requirements: Full Sun to Light Shade

Notes: Great winter interest - do not cut back until spring. A very similar variety is 'Autumn Fire'.

Blue Mist Spirea (*Caryopteris x clandonensis*)



Bloom Time: August to September; *Height:* 48"; *Width:*

48"; *Light Requirements:* Full Sun to Light Shade

Notes: Bee magnet! New growth occurs below old flower spikes. Leave flower spikes standing for winter, but cut off in spring to tidy up. Prune back older stems in late winter to encourage new growth.

Globe Thistle (*Echinops ritro*)

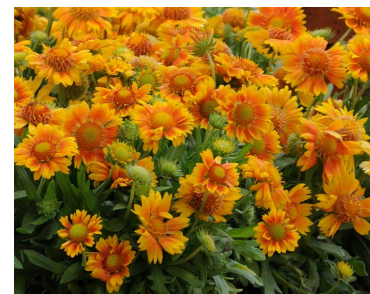


Bloom Time: August to September; *Height:* 48"; *Width:*

18"; *Light Requirements:* Full Sun to Light Shade

Notes: Self seeds readily, however seed heads are great winter interest. You will need to balance whether you want winter interest and pull seedlings in spring over deadheading.

Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia aristata* or *G. grandiflora*)



Bloom Time: July to August

Height: 12-16"; *Width:* 12-24"

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Notes: There are many different varieties, comes in a variety of colors. 'Mesa Peach' is shown.

Fall

Goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*)



Bloom Time: August to October; *Height:* 12-48"; *Width:* 24"; *Light Requirements:* Full Sun; *Notes:* 'Fireworks' (shown) and 'Little Lemon' are good varieties that don't spread too much. By pinching off the top third of the stems in June-July, you can make this flower later. Many people think goldenrod adversely affects the taste of honey, but it is good to build up winter stores.

Aster (*Aster sp.*)



Bloom Time: September to October; *Height:* 18-36"; *Width:* 18-24"; *Light:* Full Sun to Light Shade
Notes: Many different varieties, with different heights come in shades of blue, purple and white. Choose a perennial aster so it grows again each year. Pinch off the top of growth in early summer to encourage denser growth.

Japanese Anemone (*Anemone tomentosa*, *A. hupehensis*)



Bloom Time: August to September
Height: 36-48"; *Width:* 18"
Light Requirements: Partial Sun to Full Shade
Notes: These are not the same as spring anemones. Two good varieties are 'Honrine Jobert' and 'Robustissima'.

Maxmillian's Sunflower (*Helianthus maximilianii*)



Bloom Time: September to October
Height: 72-96"; *Width:* 48"
Light Requirements: Full Sun
Notes: The top 3-4' are covered with yellow blooms.

Long Season Bloomers

Golden Storksbill (*Erodium chrysanthum*)



Bloom Time: April to August

Height: 10"; *Width:* 10-25"

Light Requirements: Full Sun to Partial Shade

Notes: The foliage turns beautiful colors. Little or no irrigation is needed once established.

Catmint (*Nepeta sp.*)

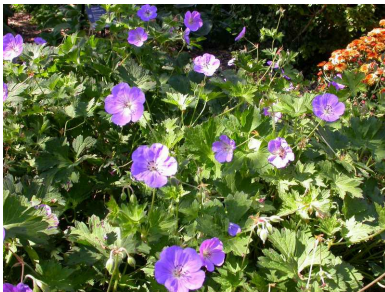


Bloom Time: May to September; *Height:* 12-36"; *Width:*

12-24"; *Light Requirements:* Full Sun to Light Shade

Notes: Shear back old flowers after bloom to encourage new flowers. Shear back 3-4 times a season for season-long bloom. Little Trudy is a small variety, Walker's Low is quite large. Other varieties are available.

Rozanne Geranium (*Geranium 'Rozanne'*)



Bloom Time: May to September

Height: 20"; *Width:* 24"

Light Requirements: Full Sun to Partial Sun

Notes: If bloom stops in the heat of summer, cut back stems to reshape and encourage a fall bloom.

Purple Poppy Mallow (*Callirhoe involucrata*)



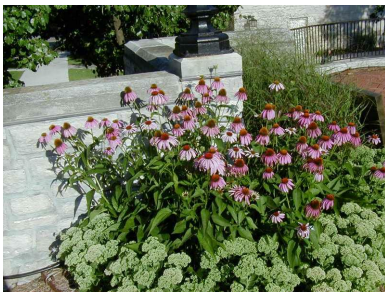
Bloom Time: February to April

Height: 12"; *Width:* 20"

Light Requirements: June to August

Notes: Will spread via seed, but do not deadhead. Seedlings do not transplant well, just pull like they are weeds.

Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)



Bloom Time: July to September

Height: 36"; *Width:* 18"

Light Requirements: Full Sun to Partial Sun

Notes: For continuous bloom, be sure to deadhead spent flowers before they start going to seed. As fall approaches, leave seed heads for winter interest.