

Plant native for our bees!



To save the bees, becoming a beekeeper is more popular than ever. And no wonder, watching the tireless work of bees foraging from plant to plant is restorative in this rapidly changing world. If you manage a beehive, your garden is the most important area to provide a daily source of flowers for the bees to forage. Bees need both sugar from nectar and pollen protein to maintain a healthy colony, so the right plants in our gardens are essential.

Planting native flora helps sustain the ecological balance. Surprisingly, there are a wide range of flower visitors that all need a food reward. Whilst we often talk of honeybees and native bees, nectar and pollen is also critical for the health of birds, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies and ants. Many plant species also support native fauna such as the honey possum. So if you plant native, you are catering for all these visitors, and keeping the balance.

Adding beauty and forage with year-round flowering into your garden will create an oasis to match the restorative benefits of managing honeybees. Meeting the year-round flowering challenge needs careful planning within the small space of our urban gardens. To help you, we have provided a list of the plants documented to be popular with bees. Remember to include a water feature. For honeybees this needs to be shallow water with a non-slippery surface.

Look after our bees, and they will keep pollinating our food!

These native plant species of the Swan Coastal Plain have been documented to be useful forage species for bees. Trees with their deep roots are generally the best nectar and pollen producing plants, however many of our native Eucalypts have a biannual flowering habit. Stability of food supply requires the addition of bushes and, if planting herbs, large masses are required to meet bee resource requirements.



Plant type	Latin name	Common name	Flower colour	Flowering months												Suitable soil types		
Herb	<i>Trachymene coerulea</i>	Rottneest Island daisy/Blue lace flower	Blue/White/Purple	J	F	M									O	N	D	Sand, loam, granite, laterite, limestone, ironstone
Shrub	<i>Acacia idiomorpha</i>	Coastal limestone wattle	Yellow						J	J	A						Sand, loam, including over limestone or sandstone	
Shrub	<i>Acacia lasiocarpa</i>	Panjang	Yellow					M	J	J	A	S	O				Most soil, laterite	
Shrub	<i>Acacia pulchella</i>	Prickly moses	Yellow					M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		Sand, clay loam over laterite	
Shrub	<i>Acacia spathulifolia</i>	Gold carpet/Gold carpet wattle	Yellow						J	J	A	S	O				Sand	
Shrub	<i>Acacia stenoptera</i>	Narrow winged wattle	Yellow-cream			M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		Sand, lateritic soil	
Shrub	<i>Allocasuarina humilis</i>	Dwarf sheoak	Red/orange-brown					M	J	J	A	S	O	N			Sand, laterite, sandy clay, gravel	
Shrub	<i>Alyogyne huegelii</i>	Lilac Hibiscus/Native hibiscus	White/Cream/Red/Blue/Purple	J					J	J	A	S	O	N	D		Calcareous sand, clay, laterite, granite, limestone	
Shrub	<i>Andersonia lehmanniana</i>		White-cream-pink-blue-purple					M	J	J	A	S					Sand, lateritic gravel, gravelly loam	
Shrub	<i>Anthocercis littorea</i>	Yellow tailflower	Yellow	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		Calcareous sand, coastal sand dunes, sand	
Shrub	<i>Banksia armata</i>	Prickly dryandra	Yellow-cream						J	J	A	S	O	N			Sand, clay, loam, gravel, granite, laterite, limestone	
Shrub	<i>Banksia candolleana</i>	Ground banksia/Propeller banksia	Yellow-orange				A	M	J	J							Sand, lateritic gravel	
Shrub	<i>Banksia hookeriana</i>	Hooker's banksia	Yellow-orange				A	M	J	J	A	S	O				Sand	
Shrub	<i>Banksia kippistiana</i>	Yellow-flowered dryandra	Yellow-cream								A	S	O				Sand, laterite	
Shrub	<i>Banksia larinina</i>	Rose banksia	Yellow				A	M	J	J							Sand	
Shrub	<i>Banksia leptophylla</i>	Slender-leaved banksia	Yellow/Orange-brown	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		Sand, gravel, laterite, limestone	
Shrub	<i>Banksia menziesii</i>	Menzies banksia/Firewood banksia/Red banksia	Pink/Red/Yellow		F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O				Sand	
Shrub	<i>Banksia nivea</i>	Honeypot dryandra/Fig flower/Couch dryandra/Ground dryandra	Cream-yellow-orange-pink/Red-brown				A			J	A	S	O	N			Sand, gravel, laterite, granite	
Shrub	<i>Banksia sessilis</i>	Parrot bush	Cream-yellow				A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N			Sand, limestone, laterite, granite	
Shrub	<i>Banksia sphaerocarpa</i> var. <i>sphaerocarpa</i>	Fox banksia	Red-brown/Purple-brown/Yellow-orange	J	F	M	A	M	J	J							Sand over, laterite, lateritic gravel	
Shrub	<i>Banksia telmatiaea</i>	Swamp fox banksia	Yellow-orange/Brown				A	M	J	J	A		O				Sand, sandy clay	
Shrub	<i>Bossiaea aquifolium</i> subsp. <i>Laidlawiana</i>	Diamond bush	Orange/Yellow & red/Brown									S	O	N			Clay loam, gravel, laterite	
Shrub	<i>Bossiaea ornata</i>	Broad leaved brown pea	Yellow & brown/Red							J	A	S	O	N			Laterite, granitic soil	
Shrub	<i>Calothamnus quadrifidus</i>	One-sided bottlebrush	Red/White-yellow						J	J	A	S	O	N	D		Wide variety of soil	
Shrub	<i>Calothamnus sanguineus</i>	Silky-leaved blood flower/Red bell	Red & white			M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N			Sand, lateritic soil	
Shrub	<i>Clematis pubescens</i>	Common clematis/White clematis	White-cream					M	J	J	A	S	O	N			Sand, sandy clay or loam, gravel, laterite, limestone, granite	
Shrub	<i>Daviesia divaricata</i>	Marno	Yellow/Orange/Red/Purple/Brown						J	J	A	S	O	N			Sand over limestone, laterite	
Shrub	<i>Daviesia epiphyllum</i>	Staghorn	Red				A	M	J	J							Lateritic soil	
Shrub	<i>Daviesia nudiflora</i>		Orange/Yellow & Red/Brown						J	J	A	S					Sand, clay, laterite	
Shrub	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	Sticky hopbush/Ake Rautangi	Crimson						J	J	A						Sand, loam, clay, granite	

Plant type	Latin name	Common name	Flower colour	Flowering months												Suitable soil types	
Tree	<i>Eucalyptus falcata</i>	Silver mallet	White-cream	J	F	M	A	M				A	S	O	N	D	Sand over laterite, including with gravel, limestone
Tree	<i>Eucalyptus foecunda</i>	Narrow-leaved red mallee	White-cream	J	F							A					Sand over limestone
Tree	<i>Eucalyptus gomphocephala</i>	Tuart	White	J	F	M	A										Sand over limestone
Tree	<i>Eucalyptus incrassata</i>	Lerp mallee/Yellow mallee	Cream-white-yellow	J	F	M	A					A	S	O	N	D	Sand
Tree	<i>Eucalyptus lane-poolei</i>	Salmon-bark wandoo/Salmon white gum	White-cream	J	F	M	A		J			A	S				Sandy loam or sand, including with gravel over laterite or granite
Tree	<i>Eucalyptus marginata</i>	Jarrah	White-cream/Pink	J					J	J		A	S	O	N	D	Sand, clay or sandy loam, laterite
Tree	<i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> subsp. <i>marginata</i>	Jarrah	White-cream/Pink	J					J	J		A	S	O	N	D	Sand, clay loam, laterite
Tree	<i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> subsp. <i>thalassica</i>	Blue-leaved Jarrah	White	J										O	N	D	Sand, laterite
Tree	<i>Eucalyptus megacarpa</i>	Bullich	White				A	M	J	J		A	S	O	N		Sand, sandy loam, limestone
Tree	<i>Eucalyptus obtusiflora</i>	Dongara mallee/Port Jackson mallee	White	J	F	M	A	M									Sand, loam
Tree	<i>Eucalyptus patens</i>	Blackbutt/Forest blackbutt/Swan River blackbutt	White/Cream	J	F						J	A			N	D	Gravelly soil, sandy clay, loam
Tree	<i>Eucalyptus petrensis</i>	Limestone mallee	White						J	J				O			Sand
Tree	<i>Eucalyptus rudis</i>	Flooded gum/River gum	White							J	A	S					Sand, loam
Tree	<i>Eucalyptus todtiana</i>	Coastal blackbutt/Pricklybark	White-cream	J	F	M	A										Sand, including over laterite
Tree	<i>Eucalyptus utilis</i>	Coastal moort	Cream/White	J									S	O	N	D	Sand, clay
Tree	<i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i>	Wandoo/White gum	White-cream	J	F	M	A	M									Sandy loam, clay loam, gravel, laterite, granite
Tree	<i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> subsp. <i>pulverea</i>	Wandoo	White-cream									A	S	O			Sand, lateritic soil
Tree	<i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> subsp. <i>wandoo</i>	Wandoo	White-cream	J	F	M	A	M								D	Sand, gravelly soil over laterite or granite
Tree	<i>Hakea laurina</i>	Pincushion hakea/Emu bush/Gold dust hakea	Red				A	M	J	J	A						Sand, sandy clay
Tree	<i>Homalospermum firmum</i>	Swamp tea-tree	White/Pink									A	S	O	N	D	Sand, loam
Tree	<i>Melaleuca cuticularis</i>	Saltwater paperbark	White-cream									A	S	O	N		Sand, clay in winter-wet areas & near water
Tree	<i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i>	Flax-leaved paperbark	White-cream	J									S	O	N	D	Sand, shale
Tree	<i>Melaleuca raphiophylla</i>	Swamp paperbark/Needle-leaved paperbark	White-cream	J						J			S	O	N	D	Sand, clay, limestone
Tree	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	White cedar/Bead tree	White-pink-purple										S	O	N		Sandstone, limestone
Tree	<i>Nuytsia floribunda</i>	Christmas tree	Yellow-orange	J										O	N	D	Sand, sandy loam, sandy gravel over clay, granite, laterite, limestone
Tree	<i>Taxandria juniperina</i>	Juniper myrtle/Warren river cedar (<i>Agonis juniperina</i>)	White		F	M	A	M									Sand, clay loam, peat, gravel, laterite
Tree	<i>Xanthorrhoea preissii</i>	Balga/Grass tree	White-cream	J					J			A	S	O	N	D	Sand, loam, gravelly sandy clay, laterite, granite
Tree	<i>Xylomelum angustifolium</i>	Sandplain woody pear	Cream-white	J	F								S			D	Sand
Tree	<i>Xylomelum occidentale</i>	Woody pear	Cream-white	J	F											D	Sand

This species list was compiled using information sourced from scientific literature by the Cooperative Research Centre for Honey Bee Products. crchoneybeeproducts.com



Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources

AusIndustry
Cooperative Research
Centres Program