

Six Powerhouse Plants for Summer

Deer-resistant, low-maintenance pollinator favorites! Suitable for small gardens and urban sites. For sunny places with medium-dry soil.

Anise Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)

A tall (2-4') aromatic plant; extremely attractive for bees and a diversity of other pollinators, including hummingbird moths, *right*.

The hybrid 'Blue Fortune' was found to be as attractive as the straight species in a study by the Mt. Cuba Center. "Avoid planting 'Golden Jubilee', a cultivar with vivid green leaves, it's been found to be unnoticed by bees." (Xerces Society)



Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Growing to a manageable height and spread of only 1' to 2', Butterfly Weed is suitable for even the smallest garden AND is a host plant for imperiled Monarch butterflies. Loves hot, dry sites and will thrive next to driveways or sidewalks.

Research from the University of Kentucky has shown that planting milkweed in clumps on the edge of your garden makes it more visible to egg-laying Monarchs.

Wild Bergamot (*Monarda Fistulosa*)

Less aggressive and more drought-tolerant than *Monarda didyma*. Very attractive to bumblebees, especially some of the more imperiled long-tongued species like the Black and Gold Bumblebee (*Bombus auricomis*, *right*) and the Golden Northern Bumblebee (*Bombus fervidus*).

An open site with good air circulation helps prevent powdery mildew.





Smooth Oxeye (*Helianthus helianthoides*)

“The large mass of bright yellow, daisy-like flowers presented on each plant will delight you. And the pollinators will be happy too — prepare to see a flurry of winged activity throughout the summer on the flowers” – Heather Holm.

Smooth Oxeye is also a host for various species of specialist bees, according to Cornell University’s [Creating a Pollinator Garden for Native Specialist Bees in New York and the Northeast](#).

Short-toothed Mountain Mint

(*Pycnanthemum muticum*)

Spreading, but not invasive, Mountain Mint is a pollinator magnet; attracting a variety of butterflies, bees, moths and wasps with multiple clusters of long-blooming flowers.

Rated Number 1 for pollinator attractiveness in [The Penn State Extension Service Pollinator Trial](#).



Foxglove Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)

An early summer bloomer, Beardtongue fills a critical role for pollinators, providing nutrition at a time when resources are dwindling at the end of spring.

Beardtongue is a compact plant, reaching around 2' in height and is visited by a number of bees including sweat bees (left), leafcutter bees, and newly hatched bumble bees.

For information about plant cultivation, consult the [Missouri Botanical Garden Plantfinder](#)

All photos by Karalyn Lamb