

Nectar and Pollen plants for honeybees

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/gardening-for-bees>

<https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/plants-for-bees/>

Remember that bumble bees have long tongues whilst honeybees' tongues are shorter.

This means that plants may not be suitable for both species.

Choose single-flowered plants as much as possible because complex snowdrops, dahlias etc, may not provide forage that is accessible to bees.

The following list mentions some trees and plants that produce nectar, pollen or both. It is by no means comprehensive, and does not allow for the changing weather patterns of the last quarter century. The list was abridged and taken from *Beekeeping Study Notes*, (Second Edition) by JD and BD Yates.

The colour of pollen is poorly described, and a pollen chart is available from Filberts – Pocket Pollen Colour Guide -

<https://www.filbertsofdorset.co.uk/product/pocket-pollen-colour-guide-2/> Price: £1.60

Name	Genus	Nectar	Pollen	Colour of Pollen	Flowering Period
Snowdrop	Galanthus	No	Yes	Brown	January – February
Crocus	Crocus	No	Yes	Yellow	February – March
Hazel	Corylus	No	Yes	Yellow	February – March
Yew	Taxus	No	Yes	Yellow	February - March
Willow	Salix	Yes	Yes	Yellow	March – April
Currants	Ribes	Yes	Yes	Grey	April
Cherry	Prunus	Yes	Yes	Brownish	April – May
“Top Fruit”. *	Rosaceae family	Yes	Yes	Yellow	April – May
Horse Chestnut	Aesculus	Yes	Yes	Red	April – May
Dandelion	Taraxacum	Yes	Yes	Orange	April – May
Raspberry **	Ribes	Yes	Yes	Grey	April – May *
Blackthorn	Prunus	Yes	Yes	Whitish	April - May

Name	Genus	Nectar	Pollen	Colour of Pollen	Flowering Period
Bluebell	Endymion	Yes	Yes	Blue	May
Holly	Ilex	Yes	Yes	Green	May
Laurel	Prunus	Yes	Yes	Yellow	May
Hawthorne	Crataegus	Yes	Yes	Whitish	May
Sycamore	Acer	Yes	Yes	Grey	May
Oil Seed Rape (OSR)	Brassica	Yes	Yes	Yellow	May – June
Field Beans	Vicia	Yes	Yes	Grey	June
Bell Heather	Erica	Yes	Yes	Grey	June
Runner Bean	Phaseolus	Yes	Yes	Grey	June
Lavender	Lavendula	Yes	Yes	Grey	June – July
Poppy	Papaver	No	Yes	Black	June – August
Thistle	Cirsium	Yes	Yes	Grey	June – August
Hogweed	Heracleum	Yes	Yes	Yellow	June – August
Charlock	Sinapsis	Yes	Yes	Yellow	June – August
White Clover	Trifolium	Yes	Yes	Grey	June
Lime	Tilia	Yes	Yes	Yellow	June
Rose Bay Willow Herb	Epilobium	Yes	Yes	Blue	July
Blackberry	Rubus	Yes	Yes	Grey	July
Evening Primrose	Oenothera	Yes	Yes	Yellow	July – August
Old Man's Beard	Clematis	Yes	Yes	Grey	July – August
Michaelmas Daisy	Aster	Yes	Yes	Yellow	July - September
Ling Heather	Calluna	Yes	Yes	Grey	August
Ivy	Hedera	Yes	Yes	Yellow	September
Gorse	Ulex	No	Yes	Yellow	Most of the year

* Top Fruit covers apples, pears, plums, apricots, peaches etc

** Autumn fruiting raspberries flower from around July until the first frosts