

NATIVE POLLINATOR PLANT LIST FOR WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

*This list was compiled by the 2023 WCU Environmental Science Capstone Class. This list is not exhaustive. This list is also a part of a working document, which will grow over time and highlights potential plants we will consider in our “Whee Feed the Bees” pollinator gardens on WCU campus.

***Bold indicates plants currently planted in pollinator gardens on campus.**

Scientific Name	Plant Name	Sun or Shade	Special Care	Pollinators	Height/Width
<i>Aesculus Pavia</i>	Red Buckeye	full sun to partial shade	None	humming birds, butterflies, and bees	8 in. to 1.5 ft.
<i>Ageratina altissima</i>	White Snakeroot	full sun, partial shade	drier, low moisture	Bees and Butterflies	1 to 3 ft. tall
<i>Allium canadense</i>	Meadow Garlic	full sun to partial shade	prefers moist, well-draining soils	bees, flies, moths, and small butterflies	1-4 ft. tall
<i>Amonia Taberna Montana</i>	Eastern blue star	full sun to partial shade	Need air circulation around leaves to prevent disease, dead head to rebloom	Hummingbirds, butterflies, and long tongued bees.	2-4' tall
<i>Archilla millefolium</i>	Yarrow	full sun, partial shade	well-draining soil, easily adaptable	Bees, Butterflies, Gorgone checkerspot butterfly, songbirds	2 to 3 ft. tall
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly weed	Full sun	Can tolerate poor soils does best in dry to medium soil moisture	Bees, Butterflies, and other pollinators	3 to 5 ft. tall
<i>Asclepias variegata</i>	Redring milkweed	full sun to partial shade	Prefers moist soil	Bees, and butterflies	18-36 in. tall, wide (45-90 cm)
<i>Baptisia albescens</i>	Spiked Wild Indigo	full sun, partial shade	moist soil, tolerates clay	Bees, Hummingbirds, Moths	2' tall by 1-1/2' wide
<i>Chrysopsis Mariana</i>	Maryland Aster	Full Sun	Short Lived, but reseeds rapidly	bumblebees, digger bees, leaf-cutting bee, and butterflies	2 to 8 ft. tall
<i>Cirsium discolor</i>	Field Thistle	full sun	drier, low moisture	Bees, Butterflies, and other pollinators	3 to 6 in. tall

<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Blue mist flower	full sun to partial shade	moist soils, blooms in the spring, "Top 75 plants"	Bees, Butterflies, and hummingbirds	2-3 ft. tall and 2-3 ft. wide
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Lanceleaf Coreopsis	Dappled sunlight, full shade	Moist Forest, Draining soils	Attracts bees, butterflies, and other insect pollinators	6-12" tall, 1-3' wide
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower	full sun	dry to moist soils	Bees, Butterflies, and other pollinators	3 to 5 ft. tall
<i>Eutrochium purpureum</i>	Joe pye weed	full sun to partial shade	Moist, well-draining soils	Bees and Butterflies who sip on nectar	2ft
<i>Iris cristata</i>	Dwarf crested iris	full sun to full shade	moist soils, afternoon shade in NC very adaptable	native Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds	2-4ft tall
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	full sun to partial shade	medium soil moisture, clay, loamy or sandy soils.	Bees and Butterflies who sip on nectar	1-3ft tall
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great Blue Lobelia	full sun, partial shade	moist soils	excellent pollinator, Bees and butterflies Bees may nest in stems.	5-7 ft tall
<i>Monarda spp.</i>	Bee Balm	full sun, partial shade	Moist, well-draining soils	Bees and butterflies	2 ft tall
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot	full sun to partial shade	Toxic variety that should be avoided: Pycnanthemum muticum; spreads	native bees, honeybees, butterflies, solitary wasps, and beetles	1-3' tall
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Foxglove Beardtongue	full sun to partial shade	Good air circulation, prevention of powdery mildew from infecting leaves.	Butterflies and Bees	3-6 ft tall
<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	Garden phlox	full sun	moist, well-drained soil that is slightly alkaline to acidic	hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees	6 to 15 ft. shrub

<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Chokecherry	full sun	dry to moist soils	Bees and Butterflies	2-4' tall
<i>Pycnanthemum flexuosum</i>	Mountain Mint	dappled sunlight or shade	Spring to early fall, well-draining soil	Hummingbirds and Bees	15-20' tall, 15-25' wide
<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	Pink Azalea	partial shade		Monarch Butterflies and Bees	3 ft. tall
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-Eyed Susan	full sun or partial shade	moist to dry soil	long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, small to medium-sized butterflies and skippers.	2.9 ft
<i>Symphotrichum Cordifolium</i>	Heart-leaf aster	full sun to partial sun	Fast aggressive growth. Moist, well-drained soil; tolerates acidic and alkaline soil	Hummingbirds, butterflies, and long tongued bees.	30+ feet ^{5,19}
** <i>Symphotrichum patens</i>	Late Purple Aster				
<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England aster	partial shade	moist well-draining soils	small bees and butterflies	1-3 ft tall
** <i>Solidago altissima, gigantea, or arguta</i>					
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	Foamflower	full sun to partial shade	likes well-draining hot dry conditions, spreads readily	butterflies, bees, and other insects	2-4 ft. tall
<i>Zizia Aurea</i>	Golden Alexander	Full sun to exceptionally light shade	Prefer humus-rich neutral to slightly acidic soil. Cannot handle drought. Roots need mulch in the winter.	Hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, etc.	2-4 ft tall 1-2 ft wide