

Getting Started

The main thing to keep in mind when gardening with birds and bees is lots and lots of flowers! Bees are pollinators, meaning that they will travel from one flower to the next drinking the nectar and spreading pollen. Other pollinators that are beneficial for you to attract to your garden include butterflies, moths, and some beetles. Birds, on the other hand, are less directly attracted to the flower, and more to the seeds that follow.

Another thing to think about is ways to keep birds and bees comfortable other than feeding them. It is important to provide trees that birds can nest in, as well as sources of water. Consider building bird houses or bee baths as features for your garden!



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Bee Baths!



Although bird baths are commonplace in gardens, you don't often think of providing a place for your smaller winged neighbours to have the chance to cool off and grab a drink. Bee baths can be created to be simple and elegant garden features that give bees a place to rest and cool down on our hot summer days. Make your own by:

Step 1: Place a shallow plate in your yard or garden at ground level where you've noticed bee activity.

Tip: Reuse a plate (maybe one that's chipped), find one at a thrift store or use a plant pot tray.

Step 2: Add a few rocks to the plate to create landing pads or islands.

Step 3: Add fresh water but don't submerge the stones. You won't encourage mosquito larvae if you keep the water level low.

It's okay if the water evaporates, refill your bee bath as needed. And don't be afraid to move it around your garden/yard.



GARDENING FOR THE BIRDS & THE BEES

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Sunshine Coast
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Flowers for Bees

An important factor to remember when planting a garden with bees in mind is to have flowers that bloom at different times of the year, to ensure there is food for the insects year-round.

Some ideas of bee-friendly plants that will keep you covered all year are:

Winter:

Christmas Rose



Oregon Grape



Spring:

Thrift



Chives



Bugloss



Summer:

Rose



Foxglove



Black-eyed Susan



Fall:

Helen's Flower



Autumn Joy



Blue Beard



Plants for Birds

Birds often eat seeds and fruit from native plants, as well as insects that thrive on native plants. These factors combined mean that planting native species in your garden will cause birds to thrive in your yard!

Some of the best options for bird-friendly native plants are:

Purple Coneflowers



Sunflowers



Milkweed



Cardinal Flower



Trumpet Honeysuckle



Virginia Creeper



Buttonbush



Elderberry



Oak



Dogwood

