TOP 10 NATIVE PLANTS

SUPER FOODS FOR RUSTY PATCHED BUMBLE BEES

Help Minnesota's new state bee! Planting native wildflowers, trees, and shrubs benefits birds, pollinators, and fights against climate change.

BIRDS, BEES, & BUTTERFLIES – BEMIDJI

A community-wide effort to support a healthy web of life in Bemidji!

Every garden is important and no effort is too small

More info at *www.spearheadmhas.org/birds-and-bees*; and *https://bwsr.state.mn.us/l2l*

Our 2020 "**Top Ten Native Plants**" are locally-adapted native species important to birds, bees, and butterflies – especially the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee. Add them to your yard or garden; but don't forget to look around and see if they are already growing in the wilder areas of your yard!

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1. **Wild Geranium** (*Geranium maculatum*) 1-2' ◑ ☼
   A bumble bee favorite in the spring and early summer. **'Bezhigoojiibik'** prefers shade but will grow in full sun in a rich, slightly damp soil. Unlike most wildflowers with yellow, orange, or white pollen, Wild Geranium's pollen is bright blue. Native bees visit the flowers for nectar and pollen. The blooms also attract pollinating flies, butterflies, and skippers.

2. **Heart-leaved Alexanders** (*Zizia aptera*) 1-3' ◑ ☼
   'Bajiishkobag' is an excellent choice for upland shoreline restoration. It has bold, heart-shaped leaves and flat clusters of small yellow flowers. Heart-leaved Alexanders is a premier late spring pollinator plant. Many species of small, short-tongued bees, pollinating flies, butterflies, beetles, and plant bugs seek nectar and pollen from the flowers. Black swallowtail butterfly caterpillars feed on the foliage.

3. **Red Columbine** (*Aquilegia canadensis*) 1-3' ◑ ☼
   'Misadiijiibik' is attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, and hawk moths. The nectar of red columbine provides a hummingbird with high sugar content and amino acids - twice the amount of any other columbine species native to North America. It does very well in a home garden, preferring shadier sites but does tolerate sun.

4. **Wild Bergamot** (*Monarda fistulosa*) 2-4' ☼
   'Bibigwanagag' is an excellent garden plant. Lavender flower heads top aromatic foliage. The fresh or dried leaves can be used for tea. Bergamot oil is what flavors Earl Grey tea. The nectar of this perennial plant attracts bees, bee flies, butterflies, skippers, and hummingbird moths (see picture on front of flyer). It is easy to grow in a perennial border, wildflower garden, or meadow.

5. **Joe-Pye Weed** (*Eutrochium maculatum*) 2-10' ◑ ☼
   Excellent for the back border or along a fence line. Grows best with adequate moisture and in wet conditions. The flowers provide nectar for butterflies, and birds love the insects that hide among the fluffy seed heads. '**Mashkwaanagakobagizowin'** is widely used for shoreline restoration, moist meadows, and large rain gardens.

6. **Purple Prairie Clover** (*Dalea purpurea*) 1-3' ☼
   This legume has gorgeous purple flowers with golden flecks and finely divided leaves on multiple upright stems. It is easily grown in any sunny location with average to dry soils. **'Baasibagak'** is a Rusty Patched Bumble Bee superfood! Superfood plants produce nectar that is rich in amino acids, a secondary source of protein for adult and larval bumble bees.

7. **Culver's Root** (*Veronicastrum virginicum*) 3-6' ◑ ☼
   'Wiisagijiibik' is a beautiful, tall plant with dark green leaves that whorl around the stem. The spires of white flowers are striking! This is an excellent plant for use in a large rain garden and a great choice for the back border. Culver's root is important to many native pollinators. It is visited by leafcutter bees, bumblebees, sweat bees, syrphid flies, red admiral butterflies, and soldier beetles.

8. **Giant Blue Hyssop** (*Agastache foeniculum*) ◑ ☼
   2-4' Another Rusty Patched Bumble Bee superfood! Bright purple flowers and textured foliage make this plant an excellent addition in herb gardens, borders and perennial gardens. '**Wiisawanashk'** is biennial and self-sows readily on open soil. It can tolerate part shade to full sun and prefers moist to well-drained soil. The flower heads will last through the winter**.**

9. **Lead Plant** (*Amorpha canescens*) 1-3' ☼
   This native prairie shrub has dark purple showy flowers with contrasting bright orange-yellow anthers. The young green leaves are covered with white hairs that give it a silvery appearance. An excellent plant for upland sandy or gravelly soils. Native Americans used the leaves of '**Bazangwaakominigaawanzh'** for tea and tobacco.

10. **Smooth Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier laevis*) 6-25' ◑ ☼
    'Gozigwaakominagaawanzh' is a small, deciduous, usually multi-trunked understory tree or tall shrub found in thickets, open woods and wood margins. Often the first flowering shrub in the spring. Edible fruits ripen in July and August. Host plant for Red-Spotted Purple and Viceroy butterflies. Fruits are eaten by songbirds, grouse, small and large mammals.

***'Ojibwe'** plant name included. For photo credits, more planting information, and lists of additional local native plants for birds and pollinators visit http://www.spearheadmhas.org/birds-and-bees.php.*

Photo credits and sources:

1. Wild Geranium, Minnesota Wildflowers, k. chayka, 2010* (cropped) https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/wild-geranium
2. Heart-leaved Alexanders – iStock Photos, ErikAgar https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/golden-alexanders-flowers-in-bloom-gm803265704-130241713
3. Red Columbine – iStock Photos, eppicphotography https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/blooming-columbine-gm178292197-26573794
4. Monarda (Hummingbird clearwing moth) http://onnaturemagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/hummingbird_clearwing_moth_v2_Andy_Reago_and_Chrissy_McClarren_CC_BY_2.0.jpg; http://onnaturemagazine.com/butterfly-and-moth-guide.html#hummingbird
5. Joe-Pye Weed – Minnesota Wildflowers, Peter M. Dziuk, 2004* https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/spotted-joe-pye-weed
6. Purple Prairie Clover – iStock Photos, jMortenswn https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/wild-purple-prairie-clover-gm528314519-53473056
7. Culver's Root – Minnesota Wildflowers, Peter M. Dziuk, 2008* https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/culvers-root
8. Great Blue (Anise) Hyssop http://amp.coastalliving.com/homes/top-10-plants-for-coastal-gardens?source=dam
9. Lead Plant – Minnesota Wildflowers, K. Chayka, 2008* (cropped) https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/shrub/lead-plant
10. Serviceberry/Juneberry – Minnesota Wildflowers, Peter M. Dziuk, 2005* https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/shrub/smooth-serviceberry

- Rusty Patched Bumble Bee - Susan Day/UW Madison Arboretum, https://news.wisc.edu/arboretum-prairies-offer-rare-refuge-for-vanishing-bumblebee/

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Additional planting and growing information on these species is available at:

- Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder (includes cultivars of native species)
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Native Plant Encyclopedia
- MN Board of Soil and Water Resources Featured Plants

Ojibwe plant names based on:

- "Plants Used By the Great Lakes Ojibwa"; by James E. Meeker and Joan E. Elias and John A. Heim; Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, 1993
- Consultation with Dr. Anton Treuer, Bemidji State University; Department of Languages and Ethnic Studies, Indigenous Studies