

The BUZZ



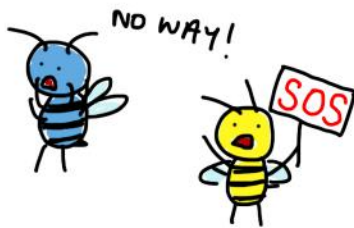
A Guide to Pollinator-Friendly Plants

Written by Ben Howard • Illustrated by Karyn Lao

Plant Trees, Save the Bees!

We at the [Baltimore Orchard Project](#) have a vision of "Growing an Edible Baltimore." However, Baltimore will never be edible without a strong population of pollinators (like our friends, the Blue Orchard Bee and Honey Bee)!

Pollinator populations are crashing across the United States, with 61% honeybee hive losses in Maryland this year alone.



One of the best ways to reverse this ecological catastrophe is to provide pollinators with food all year round. Since bees are strongest if they can find their forage within 2 miles of their hive, planting bee-friendly

trees all over the city and county can help Baltimore's bees wherever they live. Thanks to Bill Castro of Baltimore's own [Bee Friendly Apiary](#) who brought the severity of this issue and possible solutions to our attention!

With the help of nearby, year-round, bee-friendly plants, Bill was able to limit his hive loss to 17%.



The trees in this guide are pollination all-stars and would make a great addition to any urban orchard or food forest! We hope this guide inspires you to help save the bees (and feed your tummies too)!

- Ben & Karyn

MARCH

In March, the bees are coming out of winter and they are starving!



FRONTSIDE



BACKSIDE

the name doesn't lie - it's really silver!



Did you know?

During winter, honey bees feed on the honey they collected during the warmer months. They form a tight cluster in their hive to keep the queen and themselves warm

On the days when it is warm enough to fly, they need nearby forage and a good **Silver Maple** (*Acer Saccharinum*) does the trick.

The Silver Maple is native to the eastern United States. It's urban hardy, fast growing, and can reach heights of 80 feet.

April

An apple orchard in bloom is quite the sight! Bees use the nectar from the **Apple** (*Malus domestica*) blossom for raising their brood in spring.



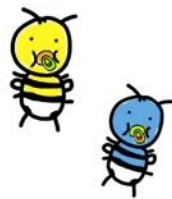
This is an example of a **King Blossom**

notice the *large central flower* in a *cluster of apple flowers*

The King Blossom is most likely to bear the biggest fruit!



Apple trees are planted worldwide and their height varies greatly depending on their rootstock



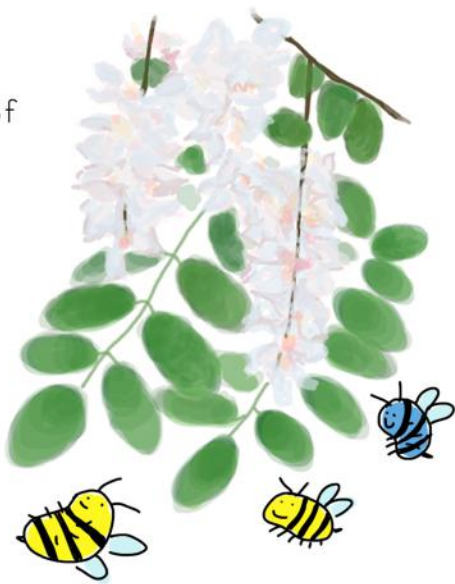
That's why it's crucial to never spray even the most organic pest-prevention during blossom season -- we don't want to hurt the baby bees!

Did you know?

The average worker bee produces about 1/12th teaspoon of honey in her lifetime

May

The fragrant white flowers of the **Black Locust** (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) produce a prodigious amount of nectar and are considered by some to be the backbone of Maryland honey. These trees are also excellent nitrogen fixers, which makes them a good choice for a food forest.



BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ

Did you know?

The honey bee's wings stroke incredibly fast - about 200 beats per second, thus making their famous, distinctive buzz! A honey bee can fly for up to six miles, and as fast as 15 miles per hour.

Black Locusts are native to the eastern United States, urban hardy, and can reach heights of 70 feet.

Buzzzzzzzz

Do you hear that?



June

The **American Linden** (*Tilia americana*) is known for withstanding strong winds, providing deep shade, and supplying the mild spicy nectar for basswood honey.


Did you know?

Honey is the only food that includes all the substances necessary to sustain life, including enzymes, vitamins, minerals, and water. It's the only food that contains "pinocembrin", an antioxidant associated with improved brain functioning.

**NOW THAT'S
food for
thought!**



Linden flowers are used in herbal medicine to treat colds, coughs, fevers, infections, inflammation, high blood pressure, headaches, as a diuretic, antispasmodic, and as a sedative.

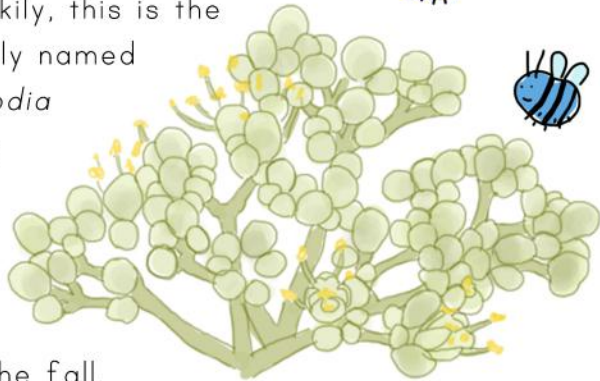
The American Linden is native to the eastern United States, urban hardy, fast growing, and can reach heights of 120 feet.

**Is there a
doctor in
the house?**



July

During the late summer, our busy bees are preparing to store up for the winter, but unfortunately, often no forage can be found. Luckily, this is the time when the aptly named **Bee Bee Tree** (*Evodia danielli*) is getting started. The flowers give off a rich perfume and turn an attractive red in the fall.



it smells
soooo
good!



The Bee Bee Tree is originally from Korea, fast growing and can reach heights of 60 feet.

Did you know?

The queen bee can live up to 5 years and its role is to fill the hive with eggs. She is the busiest in the summer months, laying up to 2,500 eggs per day. The queen has control over whether she lays male or female eggs.



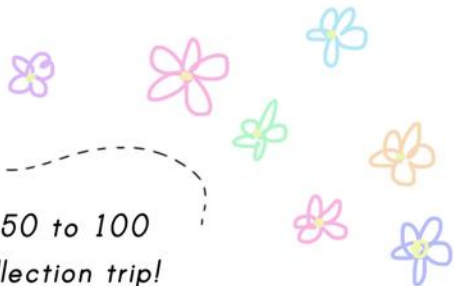
August

Shining Sumac (*Rhus copallinum*) is a small tree that packs a strong pollinator punch! Speaking of punch, the ripe berries of the Shining Sumac can be added to cold water overnight to make a lemon-tasting tea (hot water brings out bitter tannins in the berry).



Did you know?

A honey bee visits 50 to 100 flowers during a collection trip!



EDIBLE



notice the tightly bunched berries and how it stands upwards!



POISONOUS



Careful!

Be sure not to confuse the red drupes of the Shining Sumac berries with the yellowish-white berries of the Poison Sumac.

These are loose berries that hang down



but i'm hungry...

The Shining Sumac is native to the eastern United States, urban hardy, and can reach heights of 20 feet.

September

The **Seven Sons Tree** (*Heptacodium miconioides*) is a small tree that is the cousin to the honeysuckle with fragrant flowers and beautiful exfoliating bark. It also does well in part-shade, so it's perfect for an understory spot.

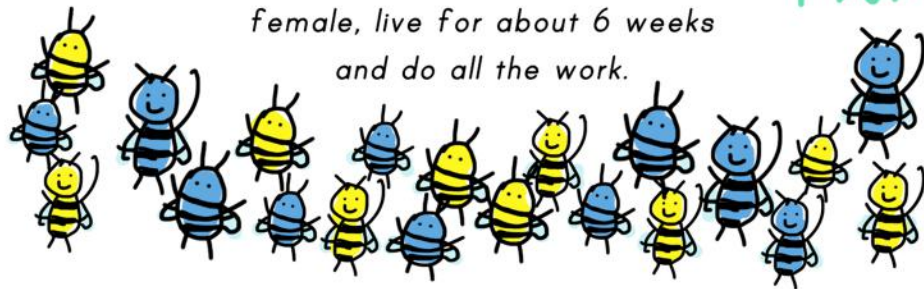


Did you know?

A colony of bees consists of 20,000 - 60,000 honeybees and one queen. Worker honey bees are female, live for about 6 weeks and do all the work.

GRL

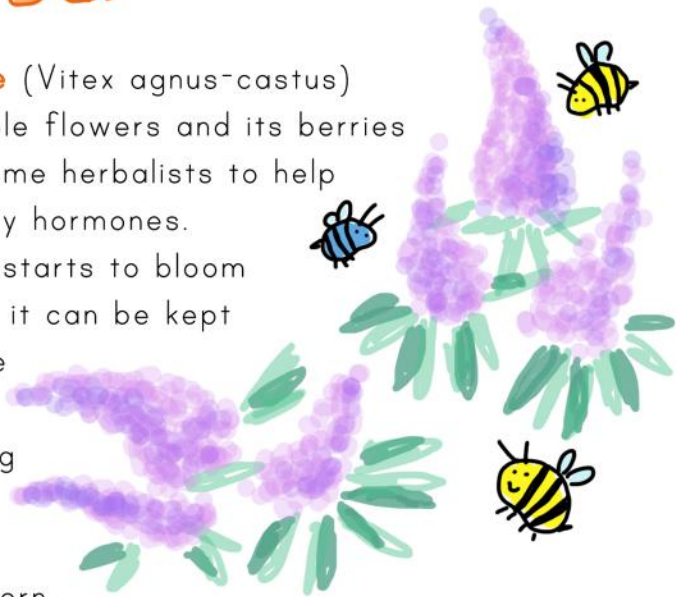
PWR



The Seven Sons Tree is originally from China, fast growing and can reach heights of 20 feet.

October

The **Vitex Tree** (*Vitex agnus-castus*) has lovely purple flowers and its berries are used by some herbalists to help balance fertility hormones. Even though it starts to bloom in the summer, it can be kept in bloom all the way through October as long as fading blooms are consistently shorn.



Did you know?

Honey bees communicate with one another by dancing. They shake their bodies and dance in the direction of the nectar source in reference to the sun's position. The dance duration and number of vibrations tell the exact distance to the flowers!



Vitex is originally from the Mediterranean and can reach heights of 15 feet

We go in depth on some of our favorite pollinator trees, but there are so many more possibilities! The following have also been identified as great trees for bees:



Catalpa
Chinese Lantern Tree



Honey Locust

Japanese Ivory Silk Tree

Little Leaf Linden

Tulip Tree

Wingstem



We hope you enjoyed **The BUZZ**
and learned how
you can help make Baltimore
beee a more pollinator-friendly place!

now please go plant some trees...

I'm starving!!!



Civic Works



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