

Forage Through the Year



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Overview

- A month-by-month overview of flowering plants in Victoria
- What the bees may be foraging on
- Some idea of the importance for honey bees and other pollinators
- Some ideas for what you might want to plant
- Not an exhaustive or exacting list
 - Slanted to my observations.
- Good
- Native
- Bad
- Others

January

- Winter flowering heather (Jan-Mar)
- Hazelnut (Jan-Mar) - Video



February

- Alder (Feb-Mar)
- Snowdrop
- Plum (Feb-Mar)
- Rhododendron (Feb-June)
- Crocus (Feb-Mar)
- Indian Plum (Late Feb-Apr)



March

- Cherry (Mar-Apr)
- Willow (Mar-Apr)
- Peach (Mar-Apr)
- Oregon Grape (Mar-Apr)
- Glory of the Snow
- Hellebores
- Winter Aconite
- Grape and other Hyacinths
- Dandelion (Mar-May)
- Winter Jasmine
- Camellia (Mar-Apr)
- Poisonous Invasive Daphne
- Purple Dead Nettle
- Flowering Red Currant (Mar-Apr)





April

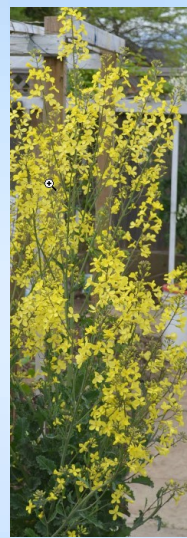


- Catmint and other mints (Apr-Sep)
- Big Leaf Maple (Mar-Apr)
- Arbutus
- Rosemary (Multiple flowerings)
- Saskatoon Berry (Apr-Jul)
- Camas (Apr-Jun)
- Berries Berries (Apr-Jun)
- Daisy (Apr-Jun)
- Native Wildflowers

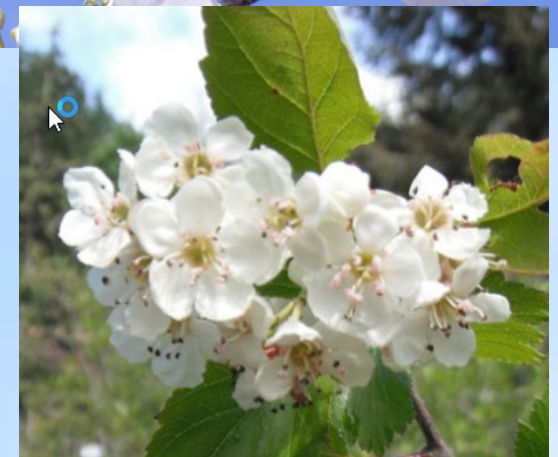




May



- California Lilac (2nd bloom in fall)
- Red Hot Poker (May-Jun)
- Snowberry (May-Jul)
- Apple (Apr-May)
- Clover (May-Jul)
- Thyme (May-Jun)
- Kale (May-Jul)
- Lovage (May-Jun)
- Salal (May-Jun)
- Black Hawthorn
- Native Rose (May-Jul)
- Dearth (May-Jun)



June

- Borage (Jun-Aug)
- Blackberry (Jun-July and onward)
- Foxglove (Jun-July)
- St. John's Wort
- Hairy Cat's Ear (Jun-Aug)
- Onion
- Buttercup
- Oceanspray
- Lavender (Jun-Jul)
- Linden (Basswood) (Jun-Jul)



July

- Fireweed (July-Sep with elevation)
- Ligustrum Japonicum (Jul-Aug)
- Thyme
- Wild Carrot (Jul-Aug)
- Buckwheat (Summer)
- Dearth (Late Jul-Aug)
- Eucalyptus
- Thistle
- Sunflower
- Squash



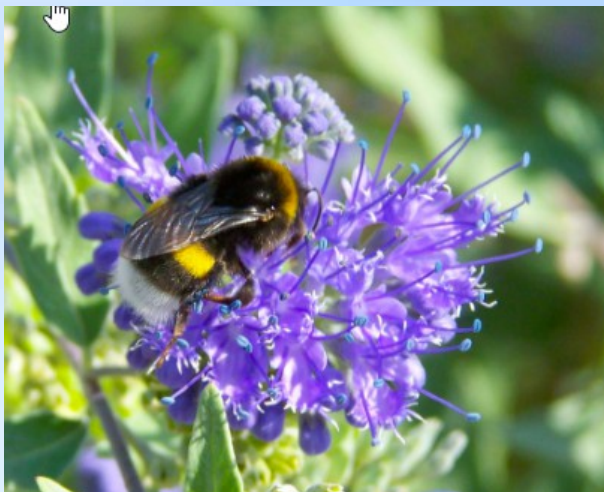
August

- Goldenrod (Jul-Sep)
- Gumweed (Jul-Oct)
- Hollyhock
- Sedum



September

- Douglas Aster
- Fall flowering Heather (Sep-Nov)
- Caryopteris



October/November/December

- Ivy (Oct-Nov)



Conclusions

- Plant a variety of plants for forage throughout the year
- Target times of year when there may be a dearth of natural vegetation
- Don't forget other pollinators
- Books:
 - *Plants of Coastal British Columbia*
 - *Victory Gardens for Bees*
- Thanks to Bob Lucy, Carolyn Hissen and Nairn Hollett for their input
- Links:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/ani>

www.pollinator.org/guides