

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Bee careful

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- Add easy-to-grow natives and native hybrids to your garden.
- Replace barren areas with wildflowers and perennials.
- Include clover in your lawn.
- Avoid using any pesticides or herbicides.
- Provide a source of water by including a fountain or even a shallow birdbath with a landing pad

of stones or pebbles.

- Pollinators need a sheltered habitat of rocks, trees, shrubs, and ornamental grasses.

In general, bees tend to enjoy plants that have flat flower clusters, short tubular shapes, and single flowers which allow them to access the nectar and pollen easily. Attract and Feed Pollinators, especially bees and Bumblebees by planting a selection of these specimens:

Anise	Delphinium	Morning glory
Aster	Echinacea	Nasturtium
Bachelor Button	Fennel	Nigella
Bee Balm	Four O'Clock	Oregano
Black-Eyed Susan	Foxglove	Poppy
Blazing Star	Gladiola	Rosemary
Bottlebrush	Hollyhock	Salvia
Calendula	Iris	Sedum
Chamomile	Lupine	Sunflower
Clover	Lavender	Sweet Pea
Cleome	Magnolia	Yarrow
Cosmos	Marigold	Zinnia
Daisy	Milkweed	

Another great addition to any pollinator garden is the bearded iris. Irises spread as they mature, with old rhizomes producing new ones to form rhizome clumps. These clumps need to be divided every 3–5 years to avoid overcrowding and reduce the likelihood of soft rot. You may want to designate an area specifically for an iris plot. Divide and replant the rhizomes to grow your garden. To divide irises do the following:

1. About four weeks after the flowers fade, cut down the foliage by about two-thirds.
2. Carefully dig up the clumps and gently separate individual rhizomes by hand or with garden shears.
3. Discard damaged or discolored rhizomes. Also, toss out any with

soft spots.

4. Freshen soil with compost and replant the newly separated rhizomes 15–24 inches apart.
5. If you have too many, share with friends and family.

Bees are critical to the well-being of the planet. My daughter and her husband have become home beekeepers and are enjoying the delicious honey that their bees create from the many flowers growing in their garden. The bees are sunbeams of beauty and productivity. It's up to humans to "bee" careful with how we manage our biologicals to promote the health and longevity of all pollinators.

Just don't exercise barefoot on the clover!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Lavender and bees are companions.



A bee gathers pollen from a Blackeyed Susan