

Plant Species for WV Pollinators

Over 2000 plant species can be found in West Virginia. Of those, approximately 1740 species are native to the state, meaning that they were here before European colonization, and likely evolved here. The remaining approximately 300 species (about one quarter of the total) have been intentionally or accidentally introduced from other countries or continents or are native elsewhere in North America and have become established in West Virginia through unknown avenues.

The following tables list some of the herbaceous and woody native plants most utilized by pollinators in West Virginia. These are generally available commercially, although from year to year some may not be due to weather or other factors. These charts are followed by a table of non-native plant species that are invasive and damage natural habitats. These include common backyard or roadside weeds that are familiar to many people.

For information on what plant species are native to West Virginia, refer to the *Checklist and Atlas of the Vascular Flora of West Virginia* and *Exotic Plant Species in West Virginia* available online (see Sources Used on page 11). Note: if you are looking for a particular species in a catalog or online, search for the scientific name. Common names are not standardized with a single species potentially boasting numerous common names. Scientific and common names in the charts below are from the *Checklist and Atlas of the Vascular Flora of West Virginia*.

Bloom periods will vary depending on your location and elevation in West Virginia. They are roughly as follows:

- very early:** February/March - April
- early:** April - early June
- mid:** June - July
- late:** August - frost

Selected Native West Virginia wildflowers useful for pollinator gardens and/or meadows.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Period	Flower Color	Comments
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	mid	Pink	Will not thrive in a very dry location
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common Milkweed	mid	Pink	Can be aggressive in a garden
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Milkweed	mid	Orange	Needs a well drained location
<i>Baptisa tinctoria</i>	Yellow Wild Indigo	early	Yellow	
<i>Bidens laevis</i>	Showy Burr-Marigold	late	Yellow	
<i>Blephilia ciliata</i>	Downy Woodmint	late	Purple	
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Field Basil	late	Purple	
<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Blue Mistflower	late	Blue	
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Lance-leaved Tickseed	mid	Yellow	
<i>Dodecatheon meadia</i>	Shooting Star	early	White	
<i>Doellingeria (Aster) umbellata</i>	Flat-topped White Aster	late	White	Formerly in genus Aster
<i>Echinacea purpureum</i>	Purple Coneflower	mid	Purple	Considerd introduced in WV, native in OH and KY
<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>	Common Joe Pye Weed	late	Purple	
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Boneset	late	White	
<i>Eupatorium serotinum</i>	Late-flowering Thoroughwort	late	White	
<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>	Jerusalem Artichoke	late	Yellow	
<i>Heliathus species</i>	sunflowers	late	Yellow	
<i>Lespedeza frutescens</i>	Intermediate Bushclover	late	Purple	
<i>Lespedeza virginica</i>	Virginia Bushclover	late	Purple	
<i>Liatris aspera</i>	Rough Blazing Star	late	purple	
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Gay Feathers	late	Purple	
<i>Lilium superbum</i>	Turk's Cap Lily	mid	Orange	

Selected Native West Virginia wildflowers useful for pollinator gardens and/or meadows.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Period	Flower Color	Comments
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	late	Red	Will not thrive in a dry location
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great Blue Lobelia	late	Blue	
<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Virginia Bluebells	very early	Blue	Needs shade
<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	Square-stemmed Monkey Flower	mid	Blue	
<i>Monarda clinopodia</i>	Basil Balm	mid	White	
<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Bee Balm	late	Red	
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot	late	Purple	
<i>Penstemon canescens</i>	Eastern Gray Beardtongue	early	Purple	
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Foxglove Beardtongue	early	Purple	
<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	Hairy Beardtongue	early	Purple	
<i>Penstemon laevigatus</i>	Smooth Beardtongue	early	Purple	
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Wild Blue Phlox	mid	Purple	
<i>Phlox stolonifera</i>	Creeping Phlox	early	Pink	
<i>Phystostegia virginiana</i>	Obedient Plant	late	Purple	
<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>	Narrowleaf Mountainmint	late	White	
<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	Lyreleaf Sage	mid	Blue	
<i>Scrophularia lanceolata</i>	Hare Figwort	early	Purple	
<i>Senna hebecarpa</i>	Wild Hairy-fruited Senna	late	Yellow	
<i>Senna marilandica</i>	Wild Senna	late	Yellow	
<i>Silphium trifoliatum</i>	Whorled Rosinweed	late	Yellow	
<i>Solidago caesia</i>	Wreath Goldenrod	late	Yellow	
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	Oldfield Goldenrod	late	Yellow	
<i>Solidago odora</i>	Sweet Goldenrod	late	Yellow	
<i>Symphotrichum (Aster) leave var. laeve</i>	Smooth Blue Aster	late	Blue	Formerly in genus Aster
<i>Symphiotrichum (Aster) lanceolatum</i>	Panicled Aster	late	White	Formerly in genus Aster
<i>Symphiotrichum (Aster) novae-angeliae</i>	Panicled Aster	late	Purple	Formerly in genus Aster
<i>Symphiotrichum (Aster) patens</i>	Late Purple Aster	late	Purple	Formerly in genus Aster
<i>Symphotrichum (Aster) pilosum</i>	White Heath Aster	late	White	Formerly in genus Aster
<i>Symphiotrichum (Aster) prenanthoides</i>	Crooked-stem Aster	late	Purple	Formerly in genus Aster
<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	Virginia Spiderwort	early	Blue	
<i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>	Ohio Spiderwort	early	Blue	
<i>Tradescantia subaspera</i>	Zig-zag Spiderwort	early	Purple	
<i>Verbena hastata (FACW)</i>	Blue Vervain	late	Blue	
<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>	Wingstem	late	Yellow	
<i>Vernonia gigantea</i>	Tall Ironweed	late	Purple	
<i>Vernonia noveborascensis (FACW)</i>	New York Ironweed	late	Purple	
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's Root	mid	White	
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexanders	early	Yellow	

Selected West Virginia Native Trees and Shrubs useful for pollinator gardens and/or meadows.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Period	Flower Color	Comments
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	very early	Red	
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Common Serviceberry	very early	White	
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Pawpaw	very early	Purple	
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	late	White	
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Redbud	very early	Purple	
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Alternate-leaved Dogwood	early	White	
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood	mid	White	
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering Dogwood	early	White	
<i>Craeteagus species</i>	Hawthorn	early	White, Pink	Difficult to identify wild plants, species readily hybridize
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Persimmon	early	Yellow	
<i>Galussacia baccata</i>	Black Huckleberry	mid	White	
<i>Hypericum species</i>	St. Johns Wort	mid	Yellow	
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Sheep Laurel	early	Pink	
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tuliptree	mid	Yellow	
<i>Malus species</i>	crabapple, apple	early	White	
<i>Morus rubra</i>	Red Mulberry	early	Green	
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black Gum	early	White	
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Sourwood	late	White	
<i>Prunus americana</i>	American Plum	early	White	
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry	early	White	
<i>Rhododendron arborescens</i>	Smooth Azalea	mid	White	
<i>Rhododendron calendulaceum</i>	Flame Azalea	mid	Orange	
<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	Great Laurel	mid	Pink	
<i>Robinia psuedoacacia</i>	Black Locust	mid	White	
<i>Rubus species</i>	blackberries, raspberries	early, mid	White	Usually aggressive in a garden, can be aggressive in a meadow, several are not native
<i>Salix nigra</i>	Black Willow	very early	Green	
<i>Salix species</i>	pussy willows	very early	Green	At least 9 WV willow species are shrubs; most prefer wet areas
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Black Elderberry	mid	White	Prefers wet areas
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	Red Elderberry	early	White	
<i>Spiraea alba</i>	White Meadowsweet	late	White	
<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	Steeplebush	late	Pink	
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American Basswood	mid	Yellow	
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Highbush Blueberry	mid	White	
<i>Vaccinium pallidum</i>	Upland Low Blueberry	mid	White	
<i>Vaccinium stamineum</i>	Dewberry	mid	White	



Left: Shadbush blooming in Monongalia Co. Right: Mountain Laurel in bloom, Buffalo Lake, Monongahela National Forest, Pocahontas Co.