



BILLINGS FARM & MUSEUM

PLANT THESE TO SAVE THE BEES!

Bee populations around the globe are seeing continually decreasing numbers. About 90% of the world's food is pollinated by bees meaning without them there would be a serious lack in nutrition. Since the 1950s, in the United States there has been a decrease in bee populations by more than 60%.

There are a few simple ways to help the bees that you can do right now. Planting wildflowers is a great way to provide bees with a food source they can trust. By planting native flower species and avoiding the use of pesticides and herbicides, bees will have a safe place to eat nectar and collect pollen.



It's important to be mindful of the type of seeds you plant. Check that the flowers you plant are species that are native to your area. Most native bees prefer flowers native to their region. By selecting native plants, you also eliminate the risk of planting an invasive species that will take over the environment. Invasive species can be very detrimental to the natural ecosystems which are very sensitive.



You can check your local garden center for regional wildflower seed mixes. You can also find lists of native species to your area online. And don't forget, you can always add plants to your garden if you don't have time or space to start from seed!

PLANT THESE TO SAVE THE BEES!

Here are a few native flower species to the Northeast that will bring bees to your garden:



Calendula

Calendula officinalis

Blooms: spring, summer, fall



Shasta Daisy

Chrysanthemum maximum

Blooms: summer



Wild Cosmos

Cosmos bipinnatus

Blooms: summer, fall

PLANT THESE TO SAVE THE BEES!



Cornflower/Bachelor Button

Centaurea cyanus

Blooms: spring, summer



Sweet William

Dianthus barbatus

Blooms: spring, summer



Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea

Blooms: summer, fall



Dwarf Sunflower Sunspot

Helianthus annuus

Blooms: summer, fall