



SELECTING
PLANTS
FOR
POLLINATORS



A GUIDE FOR GARDENERS, FARMERS, AND LAND MANAGERS IN THE



**LAKE ERIE
LOWLAND
ECOREGION**

THE
GREATER TORONTO AREA,
THE GOLDEN HORSESHOE,
SARNIA, LONDON, WINDSOR
AND
NIAGARA REGION





Lake Erie Lowlands includes:
The Greater Toronto Area
The Golden Horseshoe
Windsor
London
Sarnia
Niagara Region

PLANTS THAT ATTRACT POLLINATORS IN THE LAKE ERIE LOWLANDS

The following chart lists plants that attract pollinators. It is not exhaustive, but provides guidance on where to start. Annuals, herbs, weeds, and cover crops provide food and shelter for pollinators, too.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Colour	Flower Season	Sun	Soil Moisture	Pollinators	Also a host
Trees and Shrubs								
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	red maple	12-20m+	red, greenish, yellow	March - April	sun to partial shade	dry to wet	bees	X
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	sugar maple	12-20m+	red, greenish, yellow	March - April	sun to partial shade	dry to wet	bees	X
<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Ohio buckeye	20-30m	greenish yellow	April - May	sun to shade	moist	bees, flies	
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	kinnikinnick	less than 1m	white, cream, pink	May - July	sun to partial shade	well drained to dry	hummingbirds, bees	X
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	black chokeberry	2m	white	May - June	sun to partial sun	dry to moist	bees, beetles, flies	X
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	alternateleaf dogwood	2-5.5m	white	April - July	sun to shade	dry to wet	bees, beetles, flies, butterflies	X
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Red-osier Dogwood	1-3m	white	June-August	sun to partial shade	moist	bees, butterflies, flies	X
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	eastern witch-hazel	3.5-4.5m	yellow-orange	September - November	sun to shade	moist	moths, beetles	X
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	northern spicebush	1-5m	yellow green	March - May	sun to shade	moist	bees, flies	X
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	eastern ninebark	1-3m	white	May - June	sun to partial shade	dry to wet	bees, butterflies, flies	X
<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>	pin cherry	7.5-12m	white	May - June	sun	dry to moist, well drained	bees	X
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	aromatic sumac	1.5-2m	yellow green	April - May	sun to partial shade	dry to moist, well drained	flies, bees	X
<i>Ribes triste</i>	red currant	1-3m	greenish white, white, pink, red	March - June	sun to shade	moist to dry, well drained	flie, beetles, bees	
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	red elderberry	1.5-5m	white	May - June	sun to partial shade	dry to wet	bees, beetles, flies	X
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	sassafras	10-18m	yellow green	March - June	sun to partial shade	dry to wet	flies	X
<i>Tilia americana</i>	basswood	up to 25m	yellow white	April - June	sun to partial shade	moist, well drained	bees, flies, moths	X
<i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>	cranberry	less than 1m	white to pink	April - June	sun to partial shade	dry to moist, well drained	bees	X
<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	mapleleaved viburnum	1-2m	white, cream	May - July	sun to shade	dry to moist, well drained	butterflies	X
Forbs								
<i>Actaea racemosa</i>	black cohosh	1-2.5m	white	June - July	shade to partial sun	moist	bees, flies	X
<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	Canada anemone	less than 1m	white, cream	April-August	sun to shade	moist, well drained	bees	
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	red columbine	up to 1m	red with yellow	April - July	partial shade to sun	moist, well drained	hummingbirds, bees, moths	X
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack in the pulpit	up to 1m	purple, greenish brown	April-June	deciduous shade (spring sun)	moist to wet, well drained	gnats, thrips	



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<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	swamp milkweed	0.30-1.5m	purple, pink	June-August	sun	moist to wet	butterflies, bees	X
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	butterfly weed	less than 1m	yellow, orange	June-September	sun to partial shade	dry, well drained	hummingbirds, butterflies, bees	X
<i>Campanula gieseckeana</i>	harebell	less than 1m	blue, purple	June-September	sun to partial shade	dry, well drained	hummingbirds	
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	white turtlehead	up to 1m	white, cream, pink	July - September	sun to shade	moist to wet	butterflies, bees	X
<i>Cirsium discolor</i>	field thistle	1-2m	purple, pink	June - September	sun	dry, well drained	butterflies	X
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	laceleaf tickseed	up to 1m	yellow	May - August	sun to partial sun	moist to dry	bees, butterflies	
<i>Dasiphora fruticosa</i>	shrubby cinquefoil	0.5-1.5m	yellow, white, cream	June-September	sun	dry, well drained	butterflies, bees	
<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	showy tick trefoil	0.5-2m	purple, pink	July - August	sun to partial shade	dry to moist, well drained	hummingbirds, bees	X
<i>Erythronium americanum</i>	yellow trout lily	less than 1m	yellow	April - June	shade	moist	bees	
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	spotted Joe Pye weed	0.5-2m	purple, pink	July - September	sun to partial shade	moist to wet, well drained	butterflies, bees	
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	common boneset	1-1.5 m	white	July - September	sun	well drained to moist	bees, butterflies, flies	
<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	closed gentian	less than 1m	blue, purple	August-September	sun to partial shade	moist to wet, well drained	bees	
<i>Gentiana crinita</i>	fringed gentian	0.5-1m	blue	August-October	sun to partial shade	wet to moist	bees	
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	wild geranium	less than 1m	purple, pink	April-June	sun to partial shade	dry, well drained	butterflies, bees	X
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	sneezeweed	1-1.5m	yellow, brown	July - September	sun to partial shade	moist to wet	bees, wasps, flies, butterflies	X
<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>	woodland sunflower	0.5-1.5m	yellow	July-September	sun to partial shade	dry, well drained	butterflies, bees	X
<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	jewelweed	0.5-1.5m	yellow, orange, greenish brown	July-October	partial shade to shade	moist to wet	hummingbirds, butterflies, bees	
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	wild blue iris	up to 1m	blue, purple	May-August	sun to partial shade	moist to wet	hummingbirds, bees	
<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i>	wood lily	up to 1m	red, orange	June-August	sun to partial shade	dry	hummingbirds	
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	cardinal flower	1-1.5m	red	August - October	sun to partial shade	moist to wet	bees, hummingbirds	
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	great blue lobelia	0.5-1.5m	blue	August-September	sun to partial shade	moist to wet, well drained	hummingbirds, butterflies, bees	
<i>Lysimachia ciliata</i>	fringed loosestrife	0.5-1.5m	yellow	June-August	partial shade to shade	moist	bees	
<i>Lysimachia terrestris</i>	swamp candles	up to 1m	yellow	June-August	sun to partial shade	moist	bees	

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<i>Mentha canadensis</i>	Canada mint	less than 1m	white to pink, violet	July-October	partial shade	moist to wet	bees	
<i>Monarda didyma</i>	bee balm	1-2m	scarlet red	July - September	sun to partial shade	moist to wet	hummingbirds, butterflies, bees	X
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	wild bergamot	1m	lavendar pink to violet blue	July - September	sun to partial sun	moist	butterflies, hummingbirds, bees, wasps,	X
<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	common evening primrose	0.5-2m	yellow	July - October	sun to partial shade	well drained, dry to moist	butterflies, bees	
<i>Packer plattensis</i>	prairie groundsel	less than 1m	yellow	May-August	sun	dry	bees, flies, butterflies	
<i>Packera paupercula</i>	balsam ragwort	less than 1m	yellow	May-August	partial shade	moist	bees	
<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	hairy beardtongue	up to 1m	purple, pink	May-July	sun to partial shade	dry, well drained	hummingbirds, bees	
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	wild blue phlox	less than 1m	blue, white, cream, pink	April-June	partial shade to shade, deciduous shade (spring sun)	moist, well drained	butterflies	X
<i>Phytostegia virginiana</i>	obedient plant	1-1.5m	pink to pale lilac	August-November	sun to shade	moist	hummingbirds, butterflies	
<i>Potentilla arguta</i>	tall cinquefoil	up to 1m	white, cream	June - September	sun	dry to well drained		
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	black-eyed Susan	0.5-1.5m	yellow with dark brown center	June - September	sun to partial sun	moist to dry	bees, butterflies, beetles, wasps	X
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	cutleaf coneflower	1-3m	yellow, brown	June - September	sun to partial shade	moist to dry	bees, butterflies, beetles, wasps	X
<i>Rudbeckia serotina</i>	black-eyed Susan	0.5-1.5m	yellow, orange	June-October	sun to partial shade	dry to moist, well drained	butterflies, bees	X
<i>Scrophularia marilandica</i>	carpenter's square	1.5-3m	red	July - September	sun to partial shade	well drained	flies, wasps, bees	
<i>Solidago altissima</i>	late goldenrod	0.5-2m	yellow	August - November	partial shade	moist	butterflies, bees	
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Canada goldenrod	0.5-1.5m	yellow, orange	July-October	sun to partial shade	dry, well drained	butterflies, bees	
<i>Solidago juncea</i>	early goldenrod	0.5-1.5m	yellow	July-September	sun to partial shade	dry, well drained	butterflies, bees	
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	grey goldenrod	1m	yellow	August-October	sun to partial shade	dry	butterflies, bees	
<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	steeplebush	0.5-1.5m	purple, pink	July-September	sun to partial shade	moist	butterflies	X
<i>Symphotrichum ciliolatum</i>	fringed blue aster	up to 1m	blue, purple	July-October	sun	dry, well drained	butterflies	X
<i>Symphotrichum cordifolium</i>	heart-leaf aster	1-2m	white to purple	June - August	sun	moist	bees, butterflies, flies	
<i>Symphotrichum ericoides</i>	heath aster	up to 1m	white, cream	August-October	sun	dry to moist, well drained	butterflies, bees	X



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<i>Symphotrichum laeve</i>	smooth blue aster	0.5-1.5m	blue, purple	August - November	sun	dry	butterflies	X
<i>Symphotrichum lanceolatum</i>	lance-leaved aster	0.5-1m	white, cream	September-October	sun	moist to wet	butterflies	X
<i>Symphotrichum oolentangiense</i>	azure aster	up to 1m	blue to purple	September - November	sun to partial shade	dry to well drained	bees, butterflies, flies	
<i>Symphotrichum puniceum</i>	purple-stemmed aster	0.5-2m	blue, purple	August-September	sun	moist to wet, well drained	butterflies, bees	X
<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England aster	up to 1m	purple	September - October	sun to partial shade	moist, well-drained	bees, butterflies, flies	
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	foamflower	less than 1m	white	April - May	sun to shade	moist	bees, flies, moths	
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	swamp verbena	0.5-2m	blue, purple	June - September	sun to partial shade	moist to wet, well drained	butterflies, bees	X
<i>Verbena stricta</i>	hoary vervain	less than 1m	purple	July - September	sun	dry, drained to sandy	bees, butterflies	X
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	golden Alexanders	up to 1m	yellow	May - July	sun to partial sun	moist to wet	flies, bees	X
Vines								
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	trumpet creeper	up to 15m	orange-red	June - October	sun to partial sun	dry to moist	hummingbirds, bees	X
<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	virgin's bower	3m+	white	July - August	sun to partial sun	moist	flies, bees	
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia creeper	15m+	greenish white	May - June	sun to shade	dry to moist	bees, flies	X
<i>Vitis aestivalis</i>	summer grape	18m+	greenish yellow	May - June	sun to partial sun	moist, well drained	bees, flies	X
Shelter Plants								
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	big bluestem	1-2.5m	yellow to brown	August - November	sun to partial shade	moist		
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	bluejoint	0.5-2m	purple, greenish brown	June - August	sun to shade	moist to wet		
<i>Carex retrorsa</i>	knotsheath sedge	0.5-1.2m	greenish brown	May - June	partial shade to shade	moist to wet		
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	fox sedge	less than 1m	greenish brown	May - June	sun	moist to wet		
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Canada wildrye	up to 1.5m	yellow, green, brown	March - June	sun to partial shade	moist		
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	switchgrass	0.5-2m	purple, greenish brown, pink	July - September	sun	dry to moist, well drained		X
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	little bluestem	0.5-1.5m	yellow, green, brown	June - December	sun to partial shade	dry		
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	indiangrass	1-2.5m	yellow	August - September	sun to partial shade	dry to moist, well drained	butterflies	X
<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>	sand dropseed	less than 1m	yellow	May - November	sun to partial shade	dry		