

Bee food plants (with flowering times) identified in Hawke's Bay.

| Botanical Name | Common Name | Life Form | E/D | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | Comments |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abelia grandiflora | Abelia | Shrub | D | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | Good tough flowering bush or hedge |
| Acacia spp. * | Wattle | Tree | E | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | Fast growing. Dry ground. Firewood, early flowering |
| Acer buergerianum | Trident maple | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | | ■ | | | Hardy, wind tolerant |
| Acer spp. * | Ornamental Maples | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | Varying size trees, proven grow well in H.B. |
| Acer negundo | Box elder | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | Large tree |
| Aesculus carnea Rosea | Pink horse chestnut | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | Best of inedible chestnuts for bees |
| Agonis flexuosa | Western Aust. peppermint | Tree | E | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | Drought tolerant. Warm areas |
| Albizia julibrassin | Silk Tree | Tree | D | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | Quick-growing, elegant shade tree |
| Alnus cordata and others * | e.g Italian alder | Tree | D | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | Suitable for wet or dry soils. Fixes nitrogen |
| Arbutus × andrachnoides | Hybrid Strawberry Tree | Tree | E | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | Attractive bark, year-round flowers & fruit |
| Azara serrata | Saw-toothed Azara | Tree | E | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | Attractive yellow flowers in summer |
| Banksia integrifolia | Banksia | Tree | E | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | Dry & coastal areas. Good nectar for birds |
| Blepharocalyx spp. | | Tree | E | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | Small, myrtle-like trees |
| Brachychiton acerifolius | Illawarra flame tree | Tree | E | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | Spectacular red flowering tree |
| Buddleia salviifolia | Sagewood | Shrub | E | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | Fast growing, hardy, shelter |
| Callistemon citrinus (Western Glory) | Bottlebrush | Tree/Shrub | E | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | Many varieties |
| Camellia reticulata | Camellia | Tree/Shrub | E | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | Vigorous |
| Camellia sasanqua (single flowers) | Species Camellia | Shrub | E | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | Other single flower species also valuable |
| Campsis radicans | Trumpet Vine | Vine | E | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | Vigorous climber with large showy flowers |
| Castanea spp. * | Edible chestnuts | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | Needs well drained soil |
| Ceratonia siliqua | Carob Tree | Tree | D | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | Male & female trees needed for fruiting |
| Chaenomeles Sunset Gold & others | Japonica | Shrub | E | | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | Coloured flowers preferred. Culinary use - fruit |
| Chamaecytisus palmensis | Tree lucerne | Tree/Shrub | E | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | Good initial shelter |
| Cistus species | Rock Rose | Shrub | E | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | Good in dry, warm sites |
| Citrus | Any variety | Tree | E | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | ■ | Lemon & Grapefruit are more hardy |
| Cordyline australis | Cabbage tree | Tree | E | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | Attracts birds & bees |
| Corokia spp | Corokia | Shrub | E | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | Choose best flowering types. Good hedge |
| Cornus alba | Red-Barked Dogwood | Shrub | D | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | Tolerates damp conditions, grown for winter bark |
| Corylus avellana | Hazelnut | Shrub | D | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | Useful understorey or hedge plant |

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| Corymbia (Eucalyptus) ficifolia | Flowering gum | Tree | E | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | Needs warm areas |
| Crataegus spp. * | Hawthorns | Tree/Shrub | D | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | Hardy, drought tolerant, most are thorny |
| Eriobotrya japonica | Loquat | Tree | E | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | Winter nectar and fruit for birds |
| Escallonia spp | Escallonia | Shrub | E | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | Valuable hedging shrub, pink & red preferred |
| Escallonia bifida | Escallonia | Shrub | E | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | Also attractive to Monarch Butterflies |
| Eucalyptus leucoxylon and other spp. | White ironbark | Tree | E | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | Flowering times vary within species |
| Fraxinus ornus | Manna ash | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | A compact, tough tree |
| Gevuina avellana | Chilean Hazel | Tree | E | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | Small tree with small edible nut |
| Gleditsia triacanthos | Honey locust | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | Female tree produces pods edible for stock |
| Grevillea - Robin Hood & others | Grevillea | Shrub | E | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | Smaller leaved compact varieties are best |
| Hebe (tairawhiti, speciosa, stricta etc.) | Hebe | Shrub | E | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | Many cultivars. Very good bee plants |
| Hedera helix | Ivy | Vine | E | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | Vigorous growth with prolific flowering |
| Heptacodium miconioides | Heptacodium | Tree | D | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | Attractive to bees and butterflies |
| Hoheria populnea (& H. sexstylosa) | Hohere | Tree | E | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | Native with showy white flowers |
| Idesia polycarpa | Wonder tree | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | Female trees have attractive red fruit |
| Ilex spp. | Holly | Tree/Shrub | E | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | Wide range of ornamental plants |
| Kolreuteria bipinnata | Pride of China | Tree | D | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | Attractive yellow flowers, good in dry sites |
| Lagunaria Patersonii | Norfolk Island Hibiscus | Tree | E | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | Warm areas. Free draining soil. |
| Laurus azorica | Azores Laurel | Tree/Shrub | E | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | | Aromatic |
| Laurus nobilis | Bay Tree | Tree | E | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | | Leaves used in cooking |
| Lavandula - many varieties | Lavender | Herb | D | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | L. dentata is long lived and flowers for many months |
| Lonicera fragrantissima | Honeysuckle | Shrub | E | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | Useful scented shrub |
| Lophostemon confertus (Tristania) | Brush Box | Shrub | E | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | Hardy, but frost sensitive when young |
| Mahonia spp. | Mahonia | Shrub | E | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | Good winter bee forage |
| Malus e.g. Jelly King | Crab apple | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | Many varieties available |
| Melaleuca spp. | Honey myrtle or paperbark | Tree | E | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | For sunny warm sites |
| Meryta sinclairii | Puka | Tree | E | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | Large leaves, frost tender |
| Metrosideros excelsa | Pohutukawa | Tree | E | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | Suits frost free or coastal areas |
| Morus alba | White Mulberry | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | Fast growing drought tolerant |
| Phellodendron amurense | Amur cork tree | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | Hardy, Autumn fruit attracts birds |
| Phormium tenax | New Zealand flax | Shrub | E | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | Valuable pollen for birds. Weaving |
| Photinia x Fraserii | Photinia | Tree | E | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | Versatile hedge or tree |
| Photinia beauverdiana | Deciduous Photinia | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | Very desirable small tree |

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| Pittosporum eugenioides | Lemonwood | Tree | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | One of best NZ bee plants |
| Prunus (Single flowers best) | Plums/cherries | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | Many varieties eg Prunus serotina |
| Prunus companulata | Formosan Cherry | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | Excellent early tree for birds |
| Prunus cerasifera | Cherry Plum | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | Good pollinator for edible plums |
| Prunus spp. | e.g. Japanese cherry | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | Many attractive ornamental varieties |
| Pseudopanax arboreus | Five-finger | Tree | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | One of the best NZ bee plants |
| Pyrus calleryana * | Ornamental pears | Shrub | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | Hardy. All soils, good Autumn colour |
| Quercus species | Oak | Tree | D/E | | | | | | | | | | | | | Holm, Cork & Mexican are evergreen oaks |
| Quillaja saponaria | Soapbark | Tree | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | Hardy, versatile, shelter |
| Rhus chinensis | Sumac | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | Large flowers, good autumn colour |
| Robinia pseudoacacia | Black locust | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | Useful on dry sites for soil erosion control |
| Rosa species | Roses | Shrub | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | Many species & cultivars. Single, scented for bees |
| Rosmarinus officinalis | Rosemary | Shrub | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | Many forms including ground cover |
| Schinus terebinthifolia | Brazilian Peppertree | Tree | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | Late flowering, vigorous growth |
| Styrax species (and Pterostyrax)* | Snowbell | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | Very attractive small tree |
| Syzygium spp. (Eugenia) | Lilly Pilly | Tree | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | Warm coastal sites - for birds and bees |
| Tetradium daniellii | Bee-bee tree | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | Hardy, medium-sized buzz tree |
| Tilia species | Linden or Lime | Tree | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | Hardy but prefers good soil |
| Tristanopsis laurina | Kanooka (Water Gum) | Tree | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | Bright yellow flowers |
| Viburnum cylindricum | Tube flower | Tree/Shrub | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | Large heads of flowers, bumblebees |
| Viburnum odoratissimum | Sweet Viburnum | Shrub | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | Fragrant flowers, very attractive berries |
| Vitex agnus-castus | Chaste Tree | Tree/Shrub | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | Prolific veronica-like flowers |

*** Additional Notes:**

- Many herbaceous flowers and herbs are very important bee plants, e.g. borage, thyme, comfrey, helenium, linaria, echiums, salvias (selected), agastache, cornflower, phacelia, clover, mint, golden rod, michaelmas daisies, coreopsis and zinnias.
- Acacia spp: dealbata, pravissima, longifolia, baileyana, etc.
- Acer spp: caudatifolium, davidii, oliveranum, palmatum, rubescens, rufinerve, sinense, pennsylvanicum, etc.
- Alnus spp. Many selections, wide range of uses, shelter, riparian, timber, erosion control.
- Edible chestnut Castanea species: crenata, mollissima, sativa.
- Crataegus: Many species phaenopyrum, mexicana, some attractive autumn fruiting (e.g C. lavalley 'Carrierei').
- Pyrus: other desirable species include: bretschnideri, pyrifolia, ussuriensis.
- Styrax: Several species are now coming available through nurseries.