Gardening for Honeybees

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Keys to success

- Provide floral resources.
- Provide clean water source.
- Reduce or eliminate insecticide use.
- Use bee-safe insecticides if pest control is necessary.
- Minimize use of herbicides.

Planning the garden

- Sun/ shade
  - Bees prefer sun
  - Where do you have space?
  - What can you plant?
  - When does the plant provide nectar?
- Provide buffering from wind
- Pesticides and bees
  - Site where you have control
  - Avoid
    - Right of ways
    - Neighbors yards

Planning the Garden

- Locality spraying: mosquitoes
  - Be known!
  - Find out
  - Protect the hive
    - Sprays will be most common in early evening/ dusk
- Diversity and abundance is critical
  - Developed landscapes and agricultural areas are usually insufficient
- You will make new “friends”

Planning the Garden

- You are making up for lost habitat
- Providing flowers “here” means the bees won’t have to fly “there”
- Suburban landscapes don’t provide much
- “Habitat patches”
  - The bigger, the better
- Southern exposure is often best

Planning the Garden

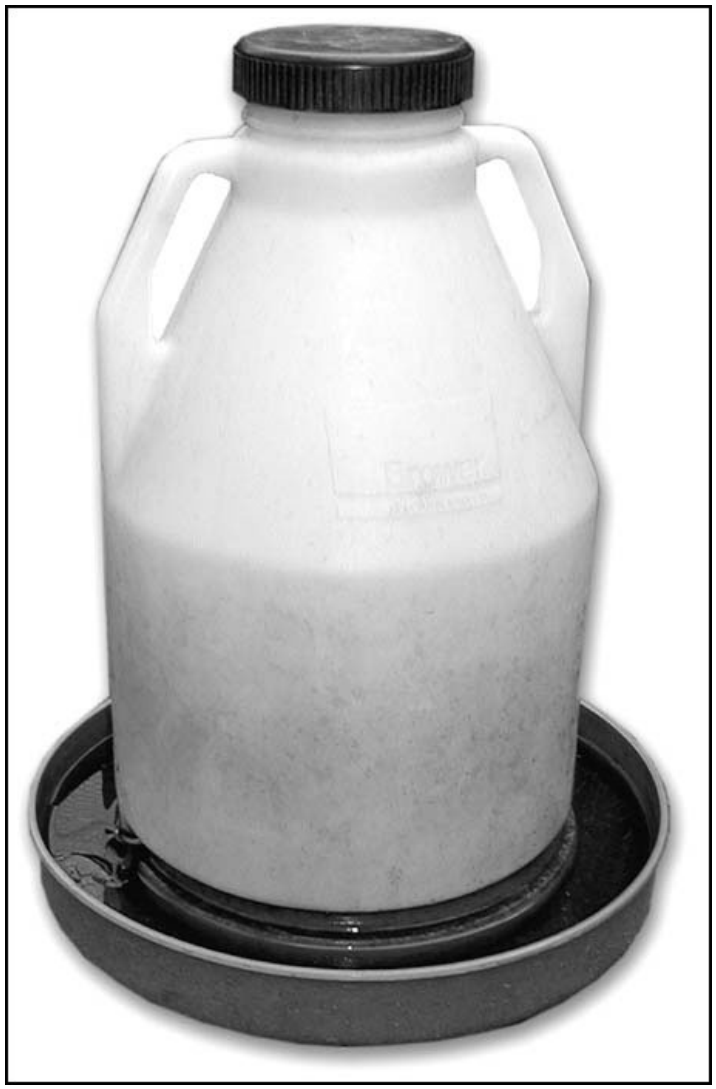
- Layout
  - Groups (clumps) of flowers
    - 3` in diameter of a single species
    - Circular
      - Help reduce weeds
      - Increase safety from pesticide drift
- Seed vs. Transplants
  - Often personal preference
  - Seeds
    - Large forage area restoration
    - Low cost
    - Delay in foraging provision
  - Transplants
    - Higher cost
    - Quicker provision of forage material

Plant native

- Native plants will often have fewer pest problems or will withstand damage better
- Introduced invasives
  - Dominate, reducing forage time length
  - Move off site
- Evolved in our area
  - More tolerant of soils
  - Sometimes more predictable
- Make a native meadow
  - Get rid of lawn

Providing water

- Bird bath
- Water feature in garden (unless using algicides)
- Chicken water
  - Stones in base



Living with weeds

- “What is the weed?”
- Is this a good forage plant?
- It is a non-native invasive?
- In many cases, only late summer forage

Choosing Plants

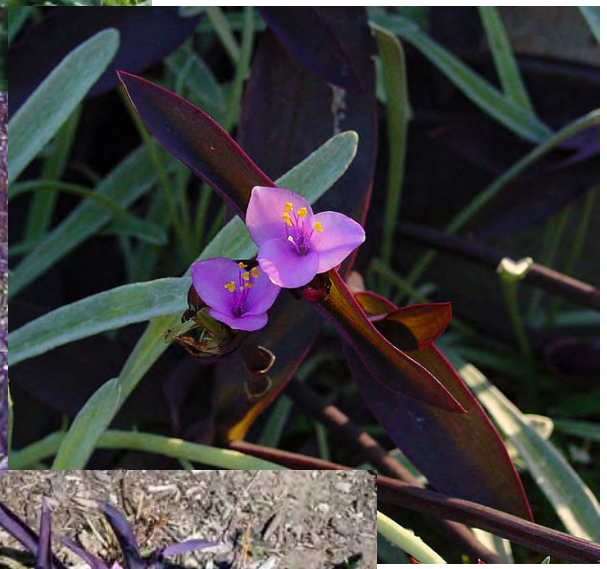
Pollination Syndromes

- Traits of flowers
  - Shape
  - Color
  - Odor
  - Time of bloom
- Suggests what types of insects will be attracted
- How we choose plants for bees

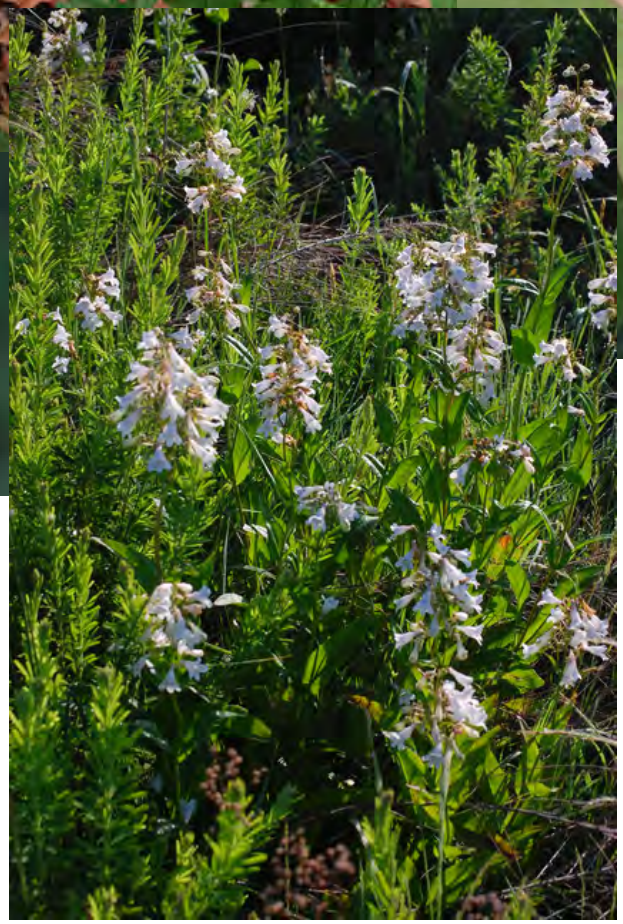
Native herbaceous plants

- Spring Bloomers
  - Spiderwort
  - Eastern smooth beardtongue
  - Manyflower beardtongue
  - Spotted geranium

- Native to gulf coast
- Occasionally invasive





Penstemon spp.
beardstongue

Geranium maculatum
spotted geranium

Native herbaceous plants

- Summer bloomers
  - Virginia Mountainmint
  - Summer Farewell
  - Dense blazingstar (*Liatris*)
  - Spotted beebalm
  - Annual blanketflower
  - Joe-Pye weed

Pycnanthemum virginianum
Virginia mountainmint

- Can grow in some shade
- Tolerant of a wide range of soils

- A little north of its range
- Pea family

Dalea pinnata
Summer farewell

- 2-3 ft. tall
- Tolerates poor soil

Liatris spicata
Dense blazing star

Monarda punctata
Spotted beebalm

Gallardia pulchella
Annual Blanket flower

Eutrochium fistulosum
Giant ironweed

Native herbaceous plants

- Autumn bloomers
  - Common Sneezeweed
  - Goldenrod
  - Giant ironweed

Helenium autumnale
Common Sneezeweed

Solidago spp.
Goldenrod

Vernonia gigantea
Giant ironweed

Native Trees and Shrubs

- Southern Magnolia
- Sourwood
- Carolina Rose
- Smallflower blueberry (Rabbiteye)
- American Basswood (Linden)

Magnolia grandiflora
Southern Magnolia

Oxydendrum arboreum
Sourwood

Rosa carolina
Carolina rose

Vaccinium virgatum
Rabbiteye blueberry

Tilia americana
American basswood
(linden)

Low cost ornamentals for bees

- Coneflower
- Catnip
- Mint family herbs
- Borage

Mint Family herbs

- Mint family herbs
  - Flowers attract wasps
  - Foliage deters flies, thrips, some soft bodied insects

Borage/ Comfrey

- Deters moth pests
- One of the best plants for pollinators
  - Nectaring beneficials
- Root system keeps weeds out

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