

Fruit Trees

All are good sources of pollen and many are also excellent nectar producers.

Almond *Prunus dulcis*
Earliest to flower. Profuse nectar producer.



Apple *Malus pumila*
Can be grown as cordons and 'bush' forms suitable for small gardens. Range of varieties, flowering from early April to late May. Good nectar producers.



Cherries *Prunus cerasus*
Large trees, good nectar producers.

Medlar *Mespilus germanica* May
Large white flowers.

Peach & nectarine *Prunus persica*
Early flowering, good nectar producer.

Pear *Prunus communis* Mar–Apr
Weak nectar, rarely collected.



Plum *Prunus domestica* Early Apr
Good nectar source.

Quince *Cydonia oblonga* Spring
Good nectar source.

Less Common Trees

These are less widely grown but are not difficult and are good bee trees. Some flower when there is little other nectar available.

Eucryphia *glutinosa*, *E. nyamansensis* Aug–Sep NP
Evergreen. Large, beautiful, single white flowers.

Snowdrop tree *Halesia carolina* May NP
Pretty, small tree. Bunches of flowers along branches.

Golden Rain tree *Koelreuteria paniculata* Jul–Aug (N)
Large, loose panicles yellow flowers.

Hop tree *Ptelea trifoliata* Jun–Jul N
Related to *Tetradium*. Aromatic leaves, small white flowers, highly scented. Profuse nectar source.

Pagoda tree *Sophora japonica* Sep NP
Creamy flowers
S. tetraptera Smaller, needs shelter. Spring NP
Deep yellow bunches of flowers.

Chinese bee tree Aug–Oct NP
Tetradium (Euodia) danielli, (*hupehensis*)
Small tree with strongly scented small white flowers. Profuse nectar source.

To find out more about specific plants and their cultural requirements most garden centres and libraries have a reference section with encyclopaedias of garden plants.

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Trees useful to Bees

This leaflet lists a number of trees useful for providing pollen and/or nectar for bees and other pollinating insects. The list includes a wide range of plants suitable for a range of habitats, including small and large gardens and the wild. Brief details are given of the less common species.

Possible sizes are not given as these can vary dramatically according to the situation, soil, altitude, exposure to wind, etc. Check with a good book (see back of leaflet) before buying trees for small gardens. There are many new cultivars which may vary from the usual species.

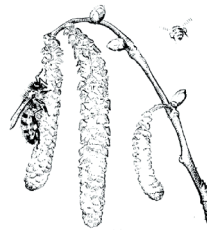
All of these trees will normally flower in the UK, although some will need a good summer to flower well. In most cases pollen production is relatively reliable, but nectar production is not, being more affected by the location, soil and weather. Lime and hawthorn are especially fickle in their production of nectar, ranging from profuse to nothing! There is an increasing number of species now being grown in the UK which originate from hotter countries and these may be highly variable in flowering and nectar production. Some of the trees listed are not reliably hardy in colder parts of the country but with warmer summers and milder winters they are able to be grown far more widely, and may produce more nectar in good weather, being good sources of honey in their native countries.

Key to lists:

** tender. * not reliably hardy. Spp = species.
 (N) = nectar produced when weather good enough.
 N = nectar collected. P = pollen collected.

- **Acacia** Beautiful, tender, winter flowering trees. Winter (N)P
 Masses of yellow, scented flowers.
A. dealbata, *A. longifolia*
- Alder** Good very early source of pollen. Jan–Mar P
Alnus glutinosa
- Blackthorn** Common wild hedge plant. Mar–May (N)P
 Masses of white flowers.
 Valuable source of early pollen.
Prunus spinosa
- Cherries** Huge group, mainly decorative trees. Avoid double flowered varieties.
Prunus avium Gean, wild cherry Apr NP
P. cerasus Sour cherry, small shrubby tree. May NP
 Profuse flowers.
P. cerasifera Myrobalm, Cherry plum. Mar–Apr (N)P
 Wide range of cultivars, some with purple foliage.
P. padus Bird cherry. Long racemes of white flowers. May NP
P. subhirtella autumnalis Attractive small tree. Winter P
P. x yeodoensis Joshino cherry. Small, beautiful. Mar–Apr NP
- Chestnuts, Horse chestnuts** Large, attractive trees. NP
Aesculus hippocastanum White flowers. Apr–May
A. carnea Red flowers, slightly later. May
A. indica Indian horse chestnut. Pink flowers. May–Jun
A. californica Buckeye. White/pink flowers. Jul–Aug
- Chestnut, Sweet or Spanish** Jul (N)P
Castanea sativa
- Crab Apples** Beautiful medium sized trees. Spring NP
Malus spp & hybrids. Many named varieties: John Downie, Profusion, Golden Hornet.
- Eucalyptus spp.** Evergreen, aromatic foliage. Some hardy in the UK. Late summer (N)
E. gunnii, *E. niphophila*, *E. parviflora*.
- False Acacia**
Robinia pseudoacacia Fragrant white flowers. Jun NP
R. viscosa Clammy locust. Late Jun NP
R. hispida Rose acacia. May–Jun NP
- Hawthorns** Common, wild, small, shrubby trees May NP
 Erratic, but can be profuse producers of nectar.
Crataegus oxycantha, *C. monogyna*
C. prunifolia, *C. crus-galli*, and many other species.

Hazels Early catkins a valuable source of pollen. Mar–Apr P
Corylus avellana, *C. maxima*



Hollies Evergreen, tiny flowers, attractive to bees. May–Jun NP
Ilex aquifolium, *I. opaca* and spp.

Honey Locust Long branched spines on trunk, scented flowers. (N)
Gleditsia tricanthos

Indian Bean Tree Magnificent, spreading trees with panicles of scented, foxglove-like, speckled flowers. Jul–Aug NP
Catalpa bignonioides, *C. fargesii*, *C. ovata*



Judas Tree Pretty small tree, purple pea-flowers on bare stems. Apr–May NP
Cercis siliquastrum

June Berry, Snowy mespilus. Beautiful tree, masses of white flowers in spring, edible fruits in June. Spring (N)P
Amelanchier lamarckii

Lime Can supply large quantities of nectar when conditions are right but can be erratic. Aphids on some species produce honey-dew. (N)
Tilia cordata Small leaved lime. Late Jul
 §*T. x euclora* Crimea lime. No honeydew. Jul–Aug
T. x europaea Common lime. Jun–Jul
T. maximowicziana Japanese lime. Jun
T. x orbicularis Hybrid lime. Jul–Aug
T. petiolaris Weeping silver lime. Jul–Aug
T. platyphyllos Broad leaved lime. Jun–Jul
T. tomentosa Silver lime. Jul
 § Nectar in these species can stupefy bees.



Maples The decorative Japanese maples rarely flower in the UK, but the larger species are all excellent bee plants. Spring (N)P

- Acer campestre* Field maple, native tree.
A. macrophyllum Oregon maple.
A. negundo Box elder.
A. opalus Italian maple.
A. platanoides Norway maple.

Mountain Ash Spring NP
Sorbus aucuparia
 Many other cultivated species.

Sweet Gum Spring (N)
Liquidambar styraciflua and hybrids.

Sycamore Valuable nectar source. May NP
Acer pseudoplatanus



Tree of Heaven Large town tree. Jul–Aug N
Ailanthus altissima

Tulip Tree Large tulip-like flowers. Jun–Jul (N)
Liriodendron tulipifera

Whitebeam May–Jun NP
Sorbus aria Common whitebeam.
S. intermedia Swedish whitebeam. Jun NP