

Planting for Honeybees: The Grower's Guide to Creating a Buzz

Sarah Wyndham Lewis

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Everywhere we turn, we are called to action. Keep turning, keep acting.

In this case, get your hands dirty. Plant something honeybee friendly to help these buzzing benefactors continue to pollinate 30 percent of the food we eat. The bees are in trouble for a myriad of reasons: loss of habitat, agrichemicals, climate change, bacterial diseases, fungi, and parasites like the armor-piercing, blood-sucking varroa mite, their single greatest threat. Even the highly bred flowering plants that we've grown to favor conspire against honeybees because they very often have inaccessible pollen and nectar sources or are downright sterile. So, in most cases, planting the original wild varieties is best, including many that may not be native to your region.

Since 2007, Sarah Wyndham Lewis has been tweaking her own garden in the bee yard of the beekeeping business she runs with her husband in Suffolk, England, studying the habits and preferences of the hives they support. Her *Planting for Honeybees* is a no-nonsense, beautiful guide to the types of plants you can grow on windowsills, patios, gardens large and small, and even lawns (honeybees love dandelions, don't you know?).

MATT SUTHERLAND (March/April 2018)

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