

## Bee City USA® Sample Factoid Signs for Garden Tours

Here are Bee City USA® sample factoids to be printed in large font on at least 10" X 10" inexpensive foam core signs (like political campaigns use) and used/reused for garden tours. Logos may be added to the bottom of the sign and factoids should be customized by region. Signs should be strategically placed to demonstrate the message. The empty "Placement" column is for noting where the sign was placed for pick-up after the tour is completed.			
Type	Number	Factoid	Placement
Generic	1	Bees and other pollinators use their senses of smell and vision to forage for nectar and pollen. Planting <b>3' circular masses</b> of one flower species helps them locate the flower as they fly and makes foraging and pollination more efficient.	
Generic	2	<b>Relax! Why mow</b> every week when pesticide-free natural areas and flower beds support the bees, beetles, butterflies, moths, bats and hummingbirds that pollinate nearly 90% of flowering plant species and 75% of food crops?	
Generic	3	<b>Pollinators can be picky!</b> They need a variety of flower types to suit their varying tongue lengths, mouth parts and physiques.	
Generic	4	Over millions of years, plants developed colorful, fragrant flowers just to <b>seduce animal pollinators</b> . Notice the varying flower shapes and <b>nectar guides</b> on petals designed to direct insects through the pollen on their way to sweet nectar.	
Generic	5	A <b>variety of flowering plants blooming in succession</b> from spring to fall provide pollinators with the nectar and pollen they need to feed themselves and their brood.	
Generic	6	<b>Pollination is a win-win. All bees collect pollen to meet their and their young's protein needs. The plants they pollinate in the process are immobile and could not reproduce without the bees' help. Pollen, the plant's male part, is unique to each plant species.</b>	
Generic	7	<b>Know how to tell a moth from a butterfly?</b> The tips of moth antennae never have a swelling like butterflies', and moth bodies tend to be stouter and hairier than butterflies'. Some flowers release their nectar only at night to attract moths or bats.	
Generic	8	Some pesticides harm or kill insects. Pollinators are insects. Therefore, pesticides may harm or kill pollinators. Please minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides.	
Generic	9	<b>Carpenter bees have shiny hineys. Bumble bees have fuzzy bums.</b>	
Generic	10	<b>Love sometimes stings!</b> Social bees (honey & bumbles) may sting if they feel their nest is threatened, but other bee species are solitary, not social, and don't have nests to defend. Bees almost never sting while foraging and males bees don't even have stingers.	

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Generic	11	<b>Create Pollinator Corridors!</b> Many bee species never travel more than 100 yards from where they were “born,” so all of their needs have to be met close by. Neighbors with small yards can provide floral refueling stations, connecting fragmented habitat.	
Generic	12	<b>What’s native to my area?</b> If you want to know if a plant was here before 1492, check the name on USDA Plants Database (check the native map by county) or Audubon Native Plants Database (use your zip code).	
Generic	13	<b>Lawns Can Be Habitat!</b> Taller lawns (up to 3 1/2") seeded with low flowering species (chamomile, thyme, clover...) suppress unwanted weeds and keep pollinators fat and happy!	
Generic	14	<b>Leave those leaves!</b> 94% of moths overwinter in or under leaf litter.	
Honey bees	15	Honey bees appreciate a reliable <b>water source</b> to cool the hive on hot days and to dilute the honey when they feed it to their young. Providing a shallow or sloping side on the water source prevents drowning.	
Honey bees	16	<b>Of 20,000 species of bees in the world, only 7 are honey bees.</b> All bees are excellent pollinators, but honey bees are the only ones that transform nectar into honey for overwintering.	
Honey bees	17	<b>Honey, I’m home!</b> Did you know that honey bees immigrated from Europe to North America in the 1600s? Since the 1880’s, beekeepers have managed honey bee colonies in Langstroth hive boxes with removable honeycomb frames.	
Relax	18	<b>Consider leaving brush piles or planting bunch grasses for bumble bees to nest in.</b> Bumbles are important pollinators: they begin foraging early in the morning and work under cooler and cloudier conditions than many other pollinators, including honey bees.	
Relax	19	Relax more! <b>Don’t keep your garden so pristine!</b> Many butterflies gather vital nutrients from muddy areas, and in some cases, rotten fruit, dung and carrion.	
Species	20	Check out the <b>native, pollinator-friendly plants</b> and trees in this yard: blue indigo, galax, bloodroot, beebalm, wild geranium, rock alumroot, goldenrod, dwarf crested iris, eastern blue phlox, black-eyed susan, doghobble, pink milkweed, cliff stonecrop, tulip poplar, yellow trillium, St. John’s wort, mountain laurel, flowering dogwood	
Species	21	Lucky for bees and butterflies, <b>tulip poplar</b> trees grow fast. In the spring their flowers provide nectar (“carbs”) for bees and their leaves serve as hosts for tiger swallowtail butterfly larvae.	
Species	22	The Circle of Life: <b>Oak trees support 534 butterfly and moth species</b> , which are very particular about where they lay their eggs (i.e. larval host sites). A single nest of chickadees will eat as many as 5000-10,000 caterpillars before they leave the nest.	

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Species	23	<b>Native plants can be attractive ornamentals.</b> Redbud ( <i>Cercis canadensis</i> ) grows wild here and early spring bees love its nectar, late spring leafcutter bees love cutting small medallions from its leaf edges to use as wallpaper in their nesting cells before laying an egg in the cell.
Species	24	Bumble bees and other native bees love our native evergreen <b>rhododendrons</b> , and butterflies and bees frequently visit our deciduous native azaleas.
Species	25	<b>Sweetbay magnolia</b> ( <i>Magnolia virginiana</i> ) is pollinated by beetles, bees, and moths, and its leaves serve as hosts for tiger swallowtail <b>butterfly larvae</b> .
Species	26	Most <b>tomatoes require "buzz pollination"</b> to achieve proper fruit set. That's bumble bees' specialty. They grip the flower with their legs and vibrate their flight muscles. Honey bees can't vibrate at the right frequency.
Species	27	Most <b>blueberries</b> cannot be fertilized by their own pollen. Placing different varieties within 100 feet of one another allows bees--honey, bumble, southeastern blueberry and orchard bees--to travel and cross-pollinate them.
Species	28	<b>Pollinators like herbs, too!</b> Pollinators adore European herbs like lavender, oregano and mints, but be aware that mints can be a bit aggressive.
Species	29	<b>Spiderwort</b> ( <i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i> ) is a favorite of pollen-collecting bees.
Species	30	Cliff stonecrop ( <i>Sedum glaucophyllum</i> ) is one of only a few <b>native sedums</b> in our region and butterflies love it.
Species	31	Fig tree flowers are completely concealed in the fruit itself. So, <b>tiny fig wasps</b> lay their eggs inside the fig and pollinate it in the process, enabling the fruit to mature. The wasps also mature and escape through an opening in the fig to repeat the process.
Species	32	In addition to the entire <b>Aster family</b> , pollinators love the <i>Asclepias</i> (milkweed), <i>Helianthus</i> (sunflower), <i>Phlox</i> , <i>Penstemon</i> , and <i>Rudbeckia</i> genera, which have a wide variety of attractive native species.
Species	33	<b>Edibles are Beautiful AND Pollinator Magnets</b> Borders of rainbow chard, bean and tomato towers, "three sister" beds, blueberries, greens and broccoli gone to flower... Bees gather their food and pollinate yours!
Species	34	<b>Feed hungry pollinators in the fall</b> , especially queen bumble bees. Food can be scarce for pollinators as they prepare to overwinter. Plant fall asters and goldenrod in dry areas, and ironweed and joe pye in wet.
Species	35	<b>Native flowering shrubs and trees are buffet bars for pollinators!</b> Consider clethra, southern bush honeysuckle, flame azaleas, serviceberry, viburnum, nine bark, American holly, basswood...

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Species	36	<b>Flowers are crafty!</b> Some flowers, like wild geraniums, alternate their male and female parts to encourage cross-pollination. Can you tell which flowers have (male) pollen and which have just the central (female) stigma?	
Species	37	<b>Hummingbirds</b> are unique to the western hemisphere. Many long tubular flowers have evolved to seduce hummingbirds with deeply hidden nectar. Even if their tongue is as long as their bodies, pollen will brush onto their foreheads as they drink!	
Species	38	Humans are not the only species to wallpaper their nurseries! <b>Leafcutter bees</b> cut disks from leaves or flower petals to line their cells for each egg.	
Species	39	<b>Want to hear bees buzz?</b> Plant a mass of mountain mint local to your area, and get ready for a pollinator party!	