

## 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.

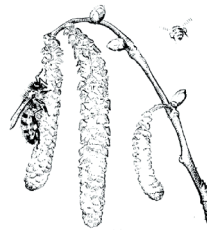
All of these trees will normally flower in the UK, although some will need a good summer to flower well. In most cases pollen production is relatively reliable, but nectar production is not, being more affected by the location, soil and weather. Lime and hawthorn are especially fickle in their production 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