Pollinator Plants for the Herb Garden

Basil

Borage

Chives

Lavender

Mint

Oregano

Parsley

Pineapple Sage

Tips for Growing Herbs:

- In general herbs are easy to grow and have few insect and disease problems.
- Most herbs need at least 6 hours of sunlight, full sun to part shade.
- Most herbs tolerate a wide range of soils except wet, poorly drained soils.
- Herb plants need good air circulation.
- Consider growing herbs in containers. This is a good idea for herbs that need good drainage. Container should have drainage holes. Combination planters, plants should have the same growing needs. Growing media should be lightweight, well-aerated, fast draining yet retain moisture.
- Perennial herbs should overwinter each year.
- Tips for perennial herbs: Avoid late summer fertilizing and pruning. Divide or replace every 3 to 5 years.
- Annual herbs grow, flower and produce seed during one season and then die.
- Tips for annual herbs: Prune leafy annuals as flowers start to fade. Harvest herbs such as dill and cilantro for seed as seeds turn light brown.
- Many herb plant flowers are beneficial to bees, butterflies, hover flies, parasitic wasps and other pollinators.

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Herbs for Pollinators

Name	Life Cycle	Height	Flower Color Bloom Time	Comments	Pollinators
Basil *Ocimum basilicum*	Annual	2 feet	Magenta, white June to Frost	Moist soil Rabbit and deer tolerant	Bees Parasitic wasps
Borage *Borage officinalis*	Annual	1 to 3 feet	Pink fade to Blue Summer	Will reseed readily	Bees
Chives *Allium schoenoprasum*	Perennial	18 inches	Purple Late spring to summer	Cut back foliage when flowers faded Deer and drought tolerant	Bees
Garlic chives *Allium tuberosum*	Perennial	18 inches	White Late summer	Cut back foliage when flowers fade Deer and drought tolerant	Bees
Dill *Anethum graveolens*	Annual	3 feet	Yellow Late summer	Foliage food for swallowtail larvae Deadhead when flowers fade	Bees, wasps Butterflies Lady beetles
Fennel *Foeniculum vulgare*	Perennial	4 to 6 feet	Yellow Summer	Foliage food for swallowtail larvae Flowers attractive to adults	Butterflies
Hyssop *Agastache* sp.	Perennial/ Tender Perennial	1.5 to 4 feet	varies Late summer	Giant blue hyssop grows 4' tall, blue flowers, hardy. Other species may not be hardy.	Bees Butterflies Hummingbirds
Lavender *Lavandula angustifolia*	Perennial	2 to 3 feet	Purple Late summer	Dry to medium soil Deer and drought tolerant	Bees Butterflies
Lemon Balm *Melissa officinalis*	Perennial	1.5 to 2 feet	White Summer	Naturalizes. Deer tolerant	Bees
Mint *Mentha*	Perennial	1 to 2 feet	White	Keep plant contained or grow as a groundcover.	Butterflies
Oregano *Origanum vulgare*	Perennial	1 to 3 feet	Purple Mid-summer to fall	Deer and drought tolerant	Butterflies
Parsley *Petroselinium* sp.	Biennial (flowers 2nd yr)		Yellow	Foliage food for swallowtail larvae Flowers attractive to adults	Butterflies
Rosemary *Rosmarinus officinalis*	Tender Perennial	2 feet	Pale blue to White Late summer	Consider overwintering in a container in an unheated cool area. Deer and drought tolerant.	Bees Butterflies
Sage ,Pineapple *Salvia elegans*	Annual	3 to 4 feet	Red Summer to fall	Consider overwintering in a container in an unheated cool area. Deer tolerant.	Hummingbirds Butterflies
Thyme *Thymus vulgaris*	Perennial	6 to 12 inches	Pale purple, pink Sumer to fall	Use as a groundcover Deer, drought, dry soil tolerant.	Bees Butterflies