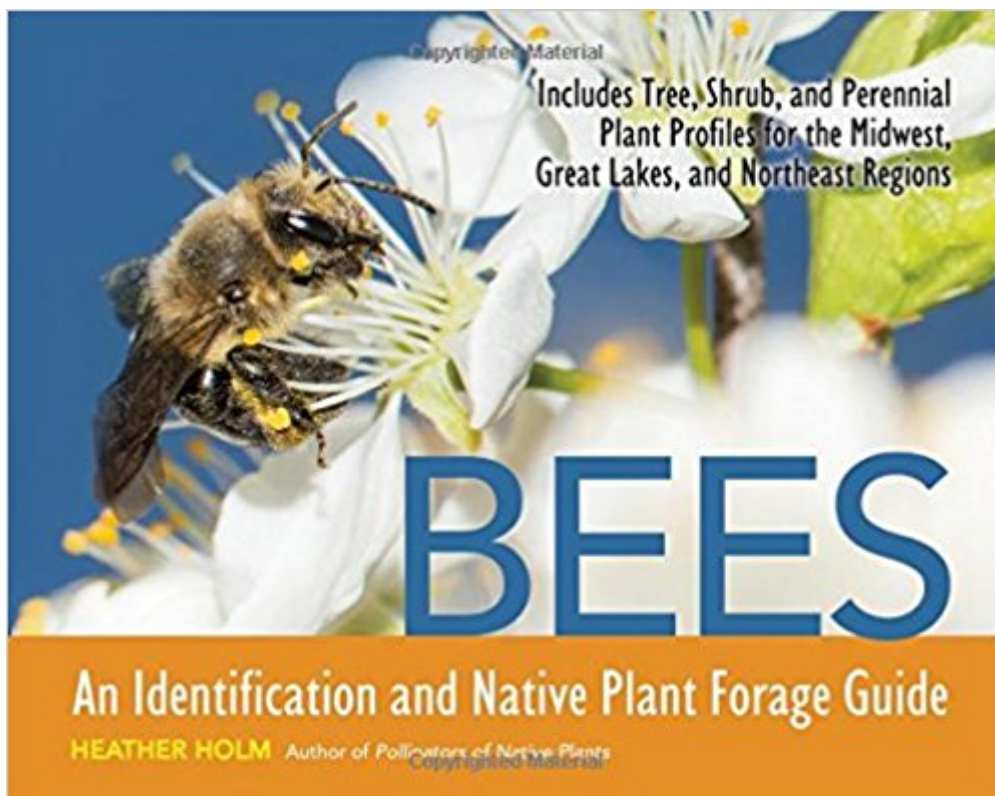


The book was found

# Bees: An Identification And Native Plant Forage Guide



## Synopsis

2017 (IPPY) Independent Publisher Silver Book Award: Environment, Ecology, and Nature  
2017 (NGIBA) Next Generation Indie Book Award Winner: Regional Non-Fiction  
2017 (NGIBA) Next Generation Indie Book Award Finalist: Science, Nature, Environment  
2017 (NIEA) National Indie Excellence Award Winner: Nature

**BEE IDENTIFICATION SECTION** A comprehensive guide illustrating the bees that occur in north-central and eastern United States and southern Canada

- In-depth profiles of 27 bee genera covering the life cycles, habitats, diet, foraging behaviors, crops pollinated, plant specializations, nesting lifestyles, seasonality, and preferred native forage plants
- 12 additional summary profiles for uncommon genera

**PLANT SECTION: WHAT TO PLANT FOR BEES** Comprehensive profiles of approximately 100 native trees, shrubs, and perennials for the Midwest, Great Lakes, and Northeast regions

- including insect and bird visitation information and bee specializations
- Over 1500 stunning photographs, detailed descriptions, and accessible science

• This well-illustrated guide captures the beauty, diversity, and engaging world of bees that occur in north-central and eastern United States and southern Canada, and the native plants that support them. Superbly designed and organized, this is an indispensable source of information with

- extensive profiles for twenty-seven bee genera, plus twelve summary profiles for uncommon genera, and approximately one hundred native trees, shrubs, and perennials for the Midwest, Great Lakes, and Northeast regions.
- With over 1500 stunning photographs, detailed descriptions, and accessible science, environmental educator and research assistant Heather Holm brings to light captivating information about bees' life cycles, habitats, diet, foraging behaviors, crops pollinated, nesting lifestyles, seasonality, and preferred native forage plants.

Bees are a singularly fascinating group of insects and this book makes it possible to observe, attract, and support them in their natural setting or in one's own garden. Not only does this guide assist the reader with bee identification in the field or by photo, it also notes microscopic features for the advanced user. The factors impacting bee populations, and the management of farms and public and residential landscapes for bees are also covered. Included in the bee forage (plant) chapters are plant profiles with range maps, habitat information, floral features and attractants, common bees attracted to the particular plant, and details about the ecological connections between the native plant and other flower-visiting insects. Noted also are birds dependent upon the product of the pollinated flowers (fruits and seeds). This is an excellent reference for amateur and professional naturalists, educators, gardeners, farmers, students, nature photographers, insect enthusiasts, biologists, and anyone interested in learning more about the diversity and biology of bees and their

connection to native plants and the natural world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"It would be hard to imagine a book more chock full of the information we need to save our native bees. From helpful ID tips, to body size ranges, to seasonal distribution, to 99 species of the trees, shrubs, and perennials preferred by 27 genera of our most common bees, Heather Holm covers it all. This is the book pollination biologists and homeowners alike have been waiting for!" — Douglas Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home* "Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide is a must-have for anyone who has an interest in plants, pollinators, or nature. It is an amazing resource of interesting facts about our native bees and the native plants they visit, accompanied by stunning photographs, presented in an easy to read, engaging way. It will open your eyes to the diversity around us, make you look closer at every flower you pass to see what bees are busy visiting, and have you finding room in your garden to add some of the featured plants that are both beautiful and beneficial for pollinators." — Victoria MacPhail, Pollination Biologist and Co-Chair, Pollination Guelph "Heather Holm's second book is a tour de force, combining plant knowledge with an intimate understanding of the native bees of Eastern North America. While this is a beautifully produced publication with stunning photographs, it is Holm's genius for organizing information in a way that's clear and accessible that makes it especially valuable." Kate Harries, Owner of Return of the Native nursery "The book is amazingly detailed and so full of information that my expectations have been exceeded. Chapter 1 sets the stage for detail with 30 pages of background on bees: life cycle, anatomy, nesting, their relationship with flowers, and the latest issues that

impact bees. All of it is beautifully illustrated with close-up photos. This section closes with a 4-page spread that illustrates key characteristics "at a glance." I love the pictorial illustrations that highlight the sizes; they really help me envision one bee relative to others.Â Chapters 2 through 6 get up close and personal with bee families: Colletidae, Andrenidae, Halictidae, Megachilidae, and Apidae. Each family is divided into several genera. I didn't know that the Apidae family included the European honeybee as well as the native bumblebees (plus several others). Profiles vary in size but each includes basic information: size, months of activity, presence in the Eastern US, how they collect pollen (if applicable), nest details, life cycle, and common forage plants. Each profile has numerous photos of the bee, often both male and female." Ellen Honeycutt, author of Using Georgia Native Plants blog

Since she did her research in the Midwest it thought this might be the perfect book for me. I enjoy trying to identify the bees in our yard and am adding plants for bees and butterflies to our garden. I found the information helpful and it was nice that the plants she suggested were geared toward the Midwest and our climate. So far, I have mining bees, Californica Mason bees, wool carder bees and now leafcutter bees. All solitary non aggressive bees. I also have large bumble bees.

Every book we purchase written by Heather Holm exceeds our expectations. It is so great to find someone so committed to investigation and sharing knowledge in an easy to read and well-organized format. Photos are great and I learn more about the plants in our area than I have from many sources. Now I wish she would tackle the subject of domestic flowers and their attractiveness to pollinators. I grew this year red petunias this year anticipating that they would attract hummingbirds but they investigated and passed them by; same thing with bees. There is no guide at nurseries or in gardening magazines about which plants support the insects.

This book will help you understand our native bees better and give you the information to help save them.

i do not expect pages to fall out of a first edition book. This is not a field guide, it is a coffee table book. the photos are medicore and lacks useful information. I do not recommend it.

Okay, , you need to start carrying this one. I've purchased several books recently about bees and by far this is the most comprehensive and thorough. It covers many of our native bees and

describes their habitat, forage needs, info about their life cycles, distinguishing features and more. The book also gives info about some of the best native plants to use for attracting and helping bees and this section is complete with handy maps. Her other book, *Pollinators of Native Plants* is also a winner.

This is my favorite book about native bees yet (and I own quite a few of them). There is a general section (37 pages) at the front with information on native bee biology and explanations on how to understand and support them and their habitat. There are 5 chapters devoted to each bee family found in North America: Colletidae, Andrenidae, Halictidae, Megachilidae, and Apidae. Each chapter is chock full of detailed photos showing bee anatomy so that you can learn to tell the species apart as well as the sorts of habitat and flowers where you might find them. Just over half of the book is then devoted to native plants, showing their distribution, the sort of soils they prefer, when they bloom, etc. They are also chock full of photos of flowers and the bees they attract. This is a must own for anyone in the midwest to northeast part of North America including Canada. It is also a good read for anyone in the west, although not specific to our area. Of the 95 plant pages, 41 grow at least into the Rocky Mountains, with some in the southwest and California. Only 15 of the plants she represents grow in my state of Washington. There is no information for Mexico. Even though we don't grow many of these plants, we have similar types and it will be interesting to see if the bees that prefer them are the same or related species out west. All of the general information about the bees should still be useful outside the area Holms studied.

I really like this book! It was one of the few I carried to Bioblitz to help with native bee identification. Alas, the only bee anyone collected was a male carpenter bee, which underscores the problem with declining numbers of native pollinators, as well as the introduced honey bee. Particular things I like about this book include "The buzz about bees" on pages 11-37; "Bees at a glance" pages 38-41 - diagrams of seasonality of common bee genera (with colored photos on the same page); pages 42-92 - separate chapters on the families of native bees (with more diagrams of timing of both common and uncommon genera, with photos), and a lot of information, at the genus level, on: worldwide and more localized numbers, sociality, pollen collection, nest location, common forage plants, and crops pollinated. Pages 93-199 of the book cover the native plants upon which native bees forage. It begins with a page on "Why choose native plants" and a five-page summary table divided by type of plant (from large trees to annuals, biennials, and perennials), and a page on "How to use the bee forage guide". The rest of the section is divided like the table: large trees, etc., and

there are colored photos of flowers and the growth form of each plant. On the same page are habitat, soil, and exposure bar graphs, along with descriptions of the flower, fruit, floral resources and attractants, and (especially useful) common bees attracted. Pages 200-201 are "Do's and Don't's for bee conservation. There is a glossary of terms, a diagrammatic glossary of plant leaves, roots, corollas, and inflorescences, and a diagram of bee wings. A list of web sites, an extensive bibliography, and an index conclude the book. In summary, well worth buying for anyone interested in gardening for native bees, or with native plants.

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