



The Bee-Friendly Garden: Design an Abundant, Flower-Filled Yard that Nurtures Bees and Supports Biodiversity

By Kate Frey, Gretchen LeBuhn

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For every gardener who cares about the planet, this guide to designing a bee garden helps you create a stunningly colorful, vibrant, healthy habitat that attracts both honeybees and native bees.

In *The Bee-Friendly Garden*, award-winning garden designer Kate Frey and bee expert Gretchen LeBuhn provide everything you need to know to create a dazzling garden that helps both the threatened honeybee and our own native bees. No matter how small or large your space, and regardless of whether you live in the city, suburbs, or country, just a few simple changes to your garden can fight the effects of colony collapse disorder and the worldwide decline in bee population that threatens our global food chain. There are many personal benefits of having a bee garden as well! Bee gardens:

- contain a gorgeous variety of flowers
- bloom continuously throughout the seasons
- are organic, pesticide-free, and ecologically sustainable
- develop healthy and fertile soil
- attract birds, butterflies, and other beneficial insects
- increase the quantity of your fruit and vegetable harvest
- improve the quality, flavor, and size of your produce

Illustrated with spectacular full-color photos, *The Bee-Friendly Garden* debunks myths about bees, explains seasonal flower progression, and provides detailed instructions for nest boxes and water features. From “super blooming” flowers to regional plant lists and plants to avoid, *The Bee-Friendly Garden* is an essential tool for every gardener who cares about the planet and wants to make their yard a welcoming habitat for nature’s most productive pollinator.

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Editorial Review

Review

Winner of the American Horticultural Society 2017 Book Award

"Even in drought, plant for bees; nectar-rich blooms help these important pollinators survive dry times. Learn how to attract bees (that don't chase humans) and increase your vegetable garden yields in the new book *The Bee-Friendly Garden*."

—**Sunset magazine**

"Award-winning garden designers Frey and LeBuhn team up in this accessible book to offer gardeners solid advice on how to attract and encourage more bees."

—**Library Journal**

"Worried about reports of massive bee die-offs and what the consequences will be to global food production? Look to *The Bee-Friendly Garden* for what you can do to help support your local bee populations."

—**Sierra magazine**

"Most people don't understand the need to plant for pollinators to achieve productive vegetable gardens, or that pollination and beauty go together. This book underlines the importance and possibilities of flower-filled gardens that address our needs and create lovely and productive spaces around our homes."

—**Rosalind Creasy, author of *Edible Landscaping***

"What a delightful, necessary book! The authors deliver its important mission—encouraging bee gardening—simply, graciously, and thoroughly. Find inspiration here, and the tools to reconnect the land you steward with the web of life. Bee happy!"

—**Lauren Springer Ogden, garden designer, author of *The Undaunted Garden*, and coauthor of *Plant-Driven Design* and *Waterwise Plants for Sustainable Gardens***

"This book will make bees happy and healthy in gardens across the country."

—**Laurie Davies Adams, executive director of Pollinator Partnership**

About the Author

KATE FREY is an international garden designer and consultant specializing in sustainable, insect-hospitable landscaping and small farms. She won two gold medals at the Chelsea Garden Show in London for ecologically themed gardens and is a popular speaker at garden shows and clubs. She has written for *Gardens Illustrated* and *Pacific Horticulture* magazines, and lives in Hopland, CA. Learn more at freygardens.com.

GRETCHEN LEBUHN is a professor of biology at San Francisco State University and the author/editor of two books on pollinators, *Field Guide to the Common Bees of California* and *Attracting Native Pollinators*. She is the founder and director of The Great Sunflower Project (www.greatsunflower.org), a national citizen science program designed to gather information about bee diversity and activity.

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Preface

As a professional garden designer, I used to judge the beauty and interest of a garden by the composition of colors, the texture of foliage, and the plants complementary or contrasting forms. I assessed scenes of nature by their ability to evoke awe or by the perfectly arranged composition of plant species. It wasn't until my five-year-old son and I observed the metamorphosis of four brilliantly striped monarch caterpillars on a patch of silvery Indian milkweed in our garden that my concept of beauty and interest changed. Besides the caterpillars, I suddenly began to notice the many species of bees that visited the milkweeds and plants surrounding them: fat and fluffy bumblebees with a variety of stripes, hoods, capes, and bottoms; small bees carrying pollen on the underside of their abdomen; shiny black carpenter bees; stout, long-horned bees; and the most exotic looking: the iridescent green sweat bees. There seemed no end of the flower visitors attracted to just one small area of plants.

Soon I was spending more time watching what was visiting the flowers in my gardens than looking at the flowers themselves. The garden became a place of intrigue. Question after question was generated by each scene: Why were some flowers mobbed by visitors like flies, beetles, and lacewings, others by native bees and honeybees, and still others by just butterflies? What was it about the flower structure, pollen, or nectar that appealed to a specific set of organisms and not to others?

We put up bee-nesting blocks next to the garden and they were filled the first year, each hole neatly plugged with mud or chewed plant stems. Suddenly, the life that was visiting the flowers became an integral part of the beauty and vitality contained in the garden.

From this first milkweed plant, a world has opened and continues to open—endlessly. I have created habitat and bee gardens across California, at the Chelsea Flower Show in London, and in Japan and Saudi Arabia. Each is flower filled, suffused with color and shifting blooms, and is uplifting and engaging to the human visitor. Under the gray skies of London, I planted western native wildflowers and agricultural clovers in orange, deep blue, yellow, red, and white under and around an array of grapevines in a series of three gardens showcasing organic viticulture. Two of the gardens won gold medals and were visited by Queen Elizabeth, demonstrating that organic agriculture and the vibrant colors and soft forms of wildflowers have wide appeal. In Japan, my husband and I created a habitat garden focused on butterflies and bees, composed of a meadow with pastel-colored flowers under the soft, spring leaves of Japanese maples.

In the harsh light and dusty heat in Saudi Arabia, on an organic vegetable and fruit farm owned by one of the princes, we planted bright yellow sunflowers, orange and white cosmos, white alyssum, basil, cilantro, za'atar, mint, and fennel to attract and support wildlife. Watching wild bees covered in sticky pollen became our entertainment.

Spending time in a bee garden allows us to step into another world, transcending the everyday routine and entering a place of beauty and anticipation. With these gardens, we develop and maintain a connection to something larger than ourselves—we get to see and know the intrinsic value of the flowers and the lives of the bees that visit them in each season.

—Kate

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Cora Morrell:

Now a day folks who Living in the era just where everything reachable by match the internet and the resources in it can be true or not involve people to be aware of each facts they get. How a lot more to be

smart in acquiring any information nowadays? Of course the solution is reading a book. Looking at a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty. Information specially this *The Bee-Friendly Garden: Design an Abundant, Flower-Filled Yard that Nurtures Bees and Supports Biodiversity* book as this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

Joseph Fulkerson:

The book untitled *The Bee-Friendly Garden: Design an Abundant, Flower-Filled Yard that Nurtures Bees and Supports Biodiversity* contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains her idea with easy method. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read that. The book was published by famous author. The author brings you in the new period of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice examine.

Tamela Campbell:

On this era which is the greater particular person or who has ability in doing something more are more important than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to experience a look at some books. One of many books in the top record in your reading list is usually *The Bee-Friendly Garden: Design an Abundant, Flower-Filled Yard that Nurtures Bees and Supports Biodiversity*. This book which can be qualified as *The Hungry Slopes* can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking upwards and review this publication you can get many advantages.

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