

Easy Trees for Queen Bumblebees

With the arrival of spring, hungry bumblebee queens crawl out of abandoned rodent holes, compost heaps, piles of leaves and other sites where they've hibernated through the long winter. As sole survivors of last year's colony, they have an urgent need to find enough pollen and nectar to nourish themselves and their developing offspring.

Planting one of these beautiful, low-maintenance trees will create a "meadow in the sky" to help feed hungry queen bumblebees:

Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp*)

American Dogwood (*Benthamidia (Cornus) florida*)

Pussy Willow (*Salix discolor*)

Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

Crabapple* (*Malus spp*)



Two-spotted bumblebee queen on Pussy Willow



Learn more about how to help queen bumblebees, from the Xerces Society blog:

[Five Ways to Support Queen Bumblebees This Spring](#)

**While there are native crabapples, most of the more ornamental and disease resistant varieties are of Asian descent; however, "This is one*

case where the aliens are apparently so similar in leaf chemistry to our native species that there is little evidence that native insects can tell the difference....." Doug Tallamy, Bringing Nature Home, 2007