

Central Missouri Master Gardener Newsletter



The Latest Dirt

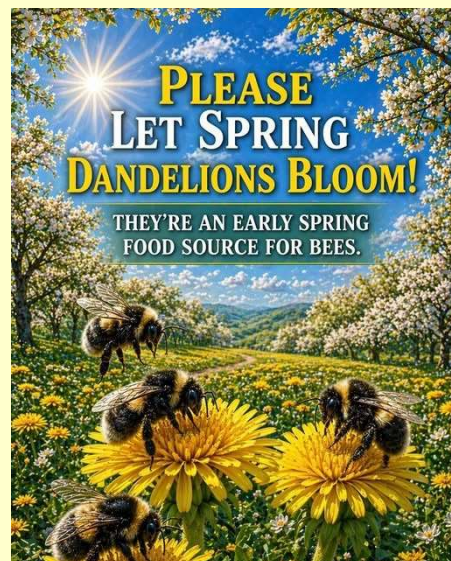
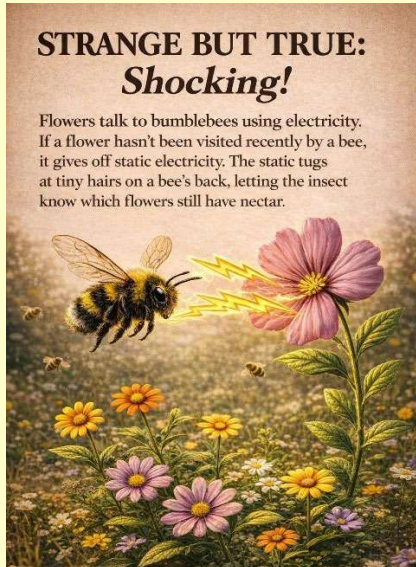
MAY 2026

Newsletter of the Central Missouri Master Gardeners

Vol. 181 No. 02

Amazing facts About Bees!

Flowers talk to bumblebees using electricity. If a flower hasn't been visited recently by a bee, it gives off static electricity. The static tugs at tiny hairs on a bee's back, letting the insect know which flowers still have nectar.



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The Alaskan bumblebee freezes solid in winter; no breathing, no heartbeat, no blood flow, brain silent. Then in spring, **it thaws** out alive like nothing ever happened.

Honeybees Can Recognize Human Faces



Honeybees can remember and recognize human faces, similar to how we distinguish individual people.

Now you know it.



BEES ARE OFFICIALLY DECLARED THE MOST IMPORTANT LIVING SPECIES ON THE PLANET, ESSENTIAL TO HUMAN LIFE



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Flowering Shrubs For Bees And Other Pollinators - A Few Notes

please check a shrub is suitable in our area (not considered an invasive species) before including it in your garden. Shrubs not in our planting zones marked in Red!

Shrubs

Berberis darwinnii - Darwin's barberry **USDA Zones 7-10**

Buddleia | *Buddleja* - Butterfly bush **USDA Zones 5-9**

Calluna, *Erica* – Heathers **USDA Zones 4-8**

Caryopteris x clandonensis -Bluebeard-Dark Knight **USDA Zone: 5 - 9**

Ceanothus - California lilac - **USDA Zones: Most cultivars are best suited for 7-10**, though some, such as [*Ceanothus x delileanus*](#), can thrive in zones 6-10.

Cotoneaster- *Cotoneaster conspicuus* 'Decorus' for bees - **USDA Hardiness Zones 5-8**

Clerodendrum bungei - Glory flower - **USDA Zones 7-10**

Daphne bholua 'Jacqueline Postill' – Daphne - **USDA Zones 7-9**

Escallonia - Red claws **USDA Hardiness Zones 8-10**

Hebe- variety 'Charming White'- **USDA Zones 7-10**

Hydrangea - selected species-*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Confetti' - **USDA Zones 4-8**

Hypericum - St. John's Wort - *Hypericum perforatum*- **USDA zones 3 through 8**

Lavendula – Lavender - **USDA Hardiness Zones 5-9**, with some varieties hardy in Zones 4-10

Privet: *Ligustrum vulgare* (Common privet) - **USDA Zones 4-7** and also *Ligustrum ovalifolium* 'Aureum' - **USDA Zones 5-8**

Leptospermum scoparium - Manuka Tree or New Zealand Tea Tree -**USDA Zones 9-10**

Mahonia (various) - *Mahonia japonica* and *Mahonia aquifolium* - **USDA Zones 5-9**

Oregano/Marjoram - *Oreganum vulgare* - **USDA Zones 4-9**

Pyracantha – Firethorn *Pyracantha atalantioides* - **Zones 7-10** *Pyracantha rogersiana* -**Hardy to Zone 6**,, *Pyracantha atalantioides*, *Pyracantha* 'Golden Charmer' -**Hardy to Zone**, or *Pyracantha* 'Orange Glow' - **Zones 5-9** - but there are other bee-friendly varieties that are available.

Prunus spinosa - Blackthorn, Sloes - **USDA Zones 4-8**,

Ribes sanguineum – Red Flowering Currant - **USDA Hardiness Zones 6-8**

Yellow Flowering Currant ([*Ribes aureum*](#)) - **USDA Hardiness Zones 3 through 8**.

Rosa - Roses (certain types)- [wild roses](#), and [*Rosa rugosa*](#) - **USDA zones 2-9**

Spiraea japonica - Japanese Spiraea - **USDA Zones 3 through 8**

Sarcococca confusa and *Sarcococca hookeriana* - Sweet Box **USDA Zones 5-9**

Viburnum opulus - guelder rose - *Viburnum opulus* - **USDA Zones 3-8**

What I Found on the Sweet Box, which I would love to have, but I think it would be iffy in our zone:

Features

Unlike anything you've seen before! Sweet & Lo sweet box fills with bunches of thin two-toned hot pink and white thin flowers in early spring. These unique blooms have a jasmine-like fragrance and are favored by early pollinators. Shiny evergreen foliage keeps the shade garden looking lush year-round. Perfect for gardeners who need to fill in a shady border or want to expand their pollinator gardens into unused spaces.

Why grow Sweet & Lo™ sweet box?

- Very shade tolerant
- Early spring blooms for pollinators
- Year-round appeal with evergreen foliage

Fragrant Flower

Winter Interest

Attracts:

Bees

Butterflies

Resists:

Deer
Characteristics
Plant Type:
Shrub

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Shrub Type:
Evergreen

Height Category:
Short

Garden Height:
18 - 30 Inches 46cm - 76cm

Spacing:
24 - 36 Inches 61cm - 91cm

Spread:
24 - 36 Inches 61cm - 91cm

Flower Colors:
Red
White

Flower Shade:
Two-toned flowers

Foliage Colors:
Green

Foliage Shade:
Green

Habit:
Mounded

Container Role:

Filler

Plant Needs

Light Requirement:

Full Shade

Part Shade

Part Shade to Shade

The optimum amount of sun or shade each plant needs to thrive: Full Sun (6+ hours), Part Sun (4-6 hours), Full Shade (up to 4 hours).

Maintenance Category:

Easy

Blooms On:

Old Wood

Bloom Time:

Late Winter

Early Spring

Hardiness Zones:

5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7a, 7b, 8a, 8b, 9a, 9b

Water Category:

Consistent

Soil PH Category:

Acidic Soil

Uses:

Groundcover

Landscape

Mass Planting

Uses Notes:

With a light suckering habit, it makes a good ground cover.

Maintenance Notes:

You can manage their light suckering by pruning in the springtime.

Sweet & Lo™ *Sarcococca hookeriana* 'Purplerij1'



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Meetings are held at the Missouri River Regional Library, 214 Adams St, Jefferson City, MO

We hope to see you there! **Unless notified differently!!!**

Online Reporting Site: Hours must be entered at [https://vms.momg.org/sec Login/](https://vms.momg.org/sec>Login/) please remember you need to enter hours on a computer, not a tablet or a phone. Again, all hours must be entered on line.

Enter your hours again starting in January.

Any emails that need to be distributed to ALL MG's should be sent to **CMMG Cole County Master Gardener <cmmg@missouri.edu>**– please don't call in messages **CMMG Official WEBSITE--** <https://extension.missouri.edu/counties/cole/extension-master-gardener> Central Missouri Master

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 Extension

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<https://centralmomg.org/about-us/>

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