These trees and shrubs are rated as good, better, and best. They are graded on a scale of 1 to 4, with 4 being the best. These ratings are based on their ability to supply nectar and pollen, as well as their structural appeal and ease of care. The ratings also take into account their hardiness, size, and the amount of care required to maintain them.

Larger trees, mostly

**MAPLE (Acer spp.)**

Maples are a popular choice for many gardens and landscapes due to their attractive form and foliage. They are generally easy to care for and can thrive in a variety of soil conditions. Maples can provide early bloom, late summer bloom, and fall color, making them a versatile choice for gardeners.

**Sugar Maple** (Acer saccharum) is a hardy tree that can reach heights of 100 feet or more. It is known for its shiny, green leaves and its ability to produce sap for maple syrup. Sugar Maples are rated as excellent for gardeners.

**Box Elder** (Acer negundo) is a smaller tree that can reach heights of 30-40 feet. It has small, yellow leaves that turn red in the fall. Box Elders are rated as excellent for gardeners.

**Buckeye** (Aesculus spp.)

**Ohio Buckeye** (Aesculus glabra) is a hardy tree that can reach heights of 30-40 feet. It has small, yellow leaves that turn red in the fall. Ohio Buckeyes are rated as excellent for gardeners.

**Yellow Buckeye** (Aesculus parviflora) is a small tree that can reach heights of 20-30 feet. It has small, yellow leaves that turn red in the fall. Yellow Buckeyes are rated as excellent for gardeners.

A shrub in the same genus is the

**Northern Catalpa** (Catalpa speciosa) is a hardy tree that can reach heights of 20-30 feet. It has large, green leaves that turn red in the fall. Northern Catalpas are rated as excellent for gardeners.

**Honey Locust** (Gleditsia triacanthos) is a hardy tree that can reach heights of 30-50 feet. It has small, yellow leaves that turn red in the fall. Honey Locusts are rated as excellent for gardeners.

**Goldmedal tree** (Koeltzio tenuifolia) is a hardy tree that can reach heights of 30-40 feet. It has small, yellow leaves that turn red in the fall. Goldmedal trees are rated as excellent for gardeners.

**Tulip Poplar** (Liriodendron tulipifera) is a hardy tree that can reach heights of 60-80 feet. It has large, green leaves that turn red in the fall. Tulip Poppers are rated as excellent for gardeners.

**American Linden** (Tilia americana) is a hardy tree that can reach heights of 60-80 feet. It has small, yellow leaves that turn red in the fall. American Lindens are rated as excellent for gardeners.

**Japanese Pagoda Tree** (Sophora japonica) is a hardy tree that can reach heights of 40-50 feet. It has small, yellow leaves that turn red in the fall. Japanese Pagodas are rated as excellent for gardeners.

**Goldenrain tree** (Sophora japonica) is a hardy tree that can reach heights of 30-50 feet. It has small, yellow leaves that turn red in the fall. Goldenrain trees are rated as excellent for gardeners.

**Bee Bee Tree** (Veronica spicata) is a hardy tree that can reach heights of 20-30 feet. It has small, yellow leaves that turn red in the fall. Bee Bee Trees are rated as excellent for gardeners.

**Silver Linden** (Tilia tomentosa) is a hardy tree that can reach heights of 30-50 feet. It has small, yellow leaves that turn red in the fall. Silver Lindens are rated as excellent for gardeners.
Smaller trees, mostly

- Allegheny Serviceberry (Amelanchier laevis) Ø, β March-April, 15-25’
- Alnus species, a street tree approved for freestanding planting under power lines, is a cross between A. laevis (one of the most valuable of this genus) and A. barbata. H
- Devil’s Walking Stick (Aralia spinosa) ø, Ø August-September, 10-20’ Not to be confused with Japanese Aralia (Aralia elata), Ø, an invasive well already entrenched in parts of Philadelphia. Both are good sources of forage at a slack time of year.
- Eastern Redbud (Cercis canadensis) ø, Ø March, April-20’, 30’ Redbud flowers look a bit like cherry blossoms, and are edible as garnish or in salads.
- Cornelian-cherry Dogwood (Cornus mas) ø, Ø, β March, 15-25’ One of the earliest small trees to bloom in the spring, providing both pollen and nectar. Can be pruned as a hedge. Other dogwoods may provide forage for bees, though not as well-timed for when the bees really need it. Red-stem Dogwood (Cornus sericea) Ø, Ø, β May, 15-25’ is a bee-friendly native dogwood for wetland areas.
- American Smoketree (Cotinus ovatus) Ø, Ø, β May, 10-20’ Prefers dry terrain. In the Anacardiaceae family with Sumacs.

HAWTHORN (CRATAEGUS SPP.)
All hawthorns contribute to the honeyflow in the May-June peak of the season. The flowers are reputed to smell awful, so people avoid planting them near the house. Generally the hawthorns are small trees, but some (Crataegus mollis and C. monogyna) grow to 40’ or so. Seven hawthorn species are approved for planting on the streets under powerlines: C. crus-galli, C. flava, C. laevigata, C. phaeoanumum, C. punctata, C. versicolor, and C. x lavallei.
- • Tree Hawthorn (Cratataeva instricta) Ø, Ø, β April-May, 8-10’ Shade tolerant and can be pruned. A hedgerow of hawthorns can equal one good bee-friendly tree.
- • Hawthorn (Cratataeva oxyacantha) Ø, Ø, β May-June, 6-30’ It’s the ‘compacta’ variety can be pruned as a hedge – Whitehead.
- • American Hawthazel (Hamamelis virginiana) Ø, Ø, β November, 20-30’ Blooms late in the fall. Ozark Hawthazel (Hamamelis vernalis), Ø, Ø, β April-June, 15-25’ blooms early in the spring. Neither provides the quantities of pollen and nectar that might be expected at another time of year, but that they provide anything is a beekeepers’ marvel and a midwinter treat for the bees on warmer days.

HOLLY & RELATED (ILEX SPP.)
American Holly is a proper ‘tree’-sized tree. Others listed here are smaller. All these trees are native here. All are abundant sources of bee forage, and also provide berrys for birds and other wildlife in the winter. Holly is poisonous and males are needed for the female Hollies to have berries.
- • Possum Haw (Ilex decidua) Ø, Ø, β April-May, 10-25’
- • Inkberry, Gallberry (Ilex glabra) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø May-June, 5-10’
- • American Holly (Ilex opaca) Ø, Ø, Ø, β June, 40-50’
- • Winterberry (Ilex verticillata) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø May-June, 6-10’
- • Common Holly (Ilex opaca) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø June, 30-40’
- • Swamp Holly (Ilex vomitoria) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø June, 30-40’

APPLE (MALUS SPP.)
- • Crabapple (Malus ribustissima) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø April-May, 20-30’
- • Crabapple (Malus coronaria) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø April-May, 20-30’
- • Sweet Crabapple (Malus prunifolia) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø April-May, 20-30’
- • Apple (Malus domestica) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø May, 30-40’

This is the regular eating apple, introduced from Eurasia, and a good bee-friendly tree. TreePhilly offers 4 varieties.
- • Sourwood (Oxydendrum arboreum) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø July, 25-30’ Highly regarded by beekeepers in the southern Appalachians, the Sourwood is being tried here. It does best in a rich, acidic soil. Many of these trees are hardy but need the condition of American – Pellet.

PIT-TYPE FRUIT TREES (PRUNUS SPP.)
This tree family includes cherries, apricots, plums, and cherryheesh. Many of our most familiar fruit are eustic to this continent, but several native Prunus species are particularly bee-friendly.
- • Black Cherry (Prunus virginiana) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø April-May, 2-5’
- • Sweet Cherry (Prunus avium) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø April-May, 15-25’
- • Sour Cherry (Prunus cerasus) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø April-May, 15-25’
- • Cherry (Prunus cerasus) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø April-May, 15-25’
- • Cherry (Prunus cerasus) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø April-May, 15-25’

This family is widely distributed in the western United States, and does well in partial shade. It also provides better in moist soil.

SUMAC (RHSUS SPP.)
Sumac bloom times vary during the year, depending on the species. Height also varies. Dicotious. Several produce ample forage in the late summer.
- • Poison Sumac (Rubus aromaticus) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø April-May, 2-5’
- • Shrub Sumac (Rubus fruticosus) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø June-July, 10-15’
- • Staghorn Sumac (Rubus typhina) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø June, 15-25’

POLLEN & PROPALIS
Some trees are basically wind-pollinated, including Oaks, Ginkgoes, Birches, Hickories, Mulberries, and evergreens such as Pine and Spruce. These trees often flower early in the spring, at of before leaf out. The leaves would add to the passage of pollen on the wind and distribute it to another. For many of these trees, male flowers are ‘catkins’ and female flowers are inconspicuous and odorless. Grains of pollen are generally small, hard, and low in protein. Most of these trees are usually to useless to insect foragers seeking nectar and diggestible pollen.

BIRCH FAMILY (ALNUS, BETULAA, CARPINUS, CORIOLUS AND OXYTILLA SPP.)
This family of wind-pollinated trees includes approved street trees such as the Grey Birch (Betula populifolia), Ø, the Hornbeam (Carpinus caroliniana), the Grey alder (Alnus incana), and the Black alder (Alnus glutinosa). Ø. They have no nectar, and generally the bees won’t find the pollen very appetizing, depending on the time of year and whether there are better alternatives. Grey Birch (Betula populifolia) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø March, 8-10’

Early in the spring, the bees do collect pollen from this tree, which grows near streams and in wet soils. Speckled Alder (Alnus incana) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø March, 8-10’ also provides pollen early in the year.
- American Hazelnut (Corylus americana) Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø February, 15-20’

There are hazel trees, both non-native, C. avellana, and C. coburniana, are useful for pollinators early in the year.

ELM FAMILY (INCLUDING CELTIS AND UMILUS SPP.)
Another set of wind-pollinated trees includes trees in the Celtid and Ulmus genera. Few provide nectar and digestible pollen for bees and other pollinator species. Three approved street trees are in this family: Sugar Hackberry (Celtis laevigata), Common Hackberry (C. occidentalis), and American elm (Ulmus americana).

POPLARS (POPULUS SPP.)
Poplars, American and Cottonwoods, generally provide little sustenance for bees. (The so-called Tulip Poplar, in the Magnolia family, is named ‘poplar’ because the wood and the stature of the tree is similar.)
- • Eastern Cottonwood (Populus deltoides)Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø, 15-25’

An important source of polapan, from the resinous sap of the buds, used by the bees medicinally and as caulk.

SYCAMORES (PLATANUS SPP.)
Commonly planted on Philadelphia streets, the London Planetree (Platanus acerifolia) provides almost nothing for the bees.