



## Perennials for Fall Color

- Amur Adonis** (*Adonis amurensis*, Zones 3-7) are some of the first garden flowers to appear, sometimes flowering as early as January during warmer winters. Their clear, golden flowers have many petals, reach just several inches high, and rise above attractive ferny foliage.
- Winter aconite** (*Eranthus hyemalis*, Zones 3-7) is similar to Adonis, but it only reaches a few inches, has fewer gold petals, and naturalizes over time.
- Early daffodils** (*Narcissus* hybrids, Zones 4-8), such as ‘Jetfire’ and ‘February Gold’ stay small and bloom very early in the season, sometimes in late-winter.
- Siberian squill** (*Scilla siberica*, Zones 2-8), with its nodding little bells of the richest violet-blue, has equally blue pollen, which is a fun site to see on a bee pollen basket.
- Glory-of-the-snow** (*Chionodoxa luciliae*, Zones 3-8) are infused with white, upward facing, a little larger, and have yellow pollen.
- Jessie spring starflower** (*Ipheion ‘Jessie’*, Zones 5-9) is 8 to 12 inches and has the deepest blue starry flowers.
- Grape hyacinth** (*Muscari armeniacum*, Zones 4-8) look like tiny, upright clusters of grapes, are super fragrant, violet-purple and bloom in earliest spring.
- Grecian windflower** (*Anemone blanda*, Zones 5-8) has violet-blue, pink, or white daisy-like flowers on very tiny plants with ferny leaves.
- Woodland crocus** (*Crocus tommasinianus*, Zones 4-8), have purplish-pink flowers and naturalize quickly to create sweeps of color very early in the season.
- Spring beauties** (*Claytonia virginica*, Zones 3-8) with their tiny pink and white striated flowers, are some of the most important for bees. They create vast sweeps of tiny flowers that bloom in the latest months of winter.
- Dutchman’s breeches** (*Dicentra cucullaria*, Zones 3-7) is an American native wildflower with delicate stems dotted with little v-shaped flowers of white.

- American trout lily** (*Erythronium americanum*, Zones 3-8) with its flared, yellow, lily flowers and spotted foliage, is another to draw many early bees.
- Cornelian cherry** (*Cornus mas*, Zones 4-8) is a large, bushy shrub with early golden flowers with the added benefit of edible fruits in summer, which are relished by birds.
- Hybrid winter witch hazel** (*Hamamelis x intermedia*, Zones 5-8) has the most exciting varieties to offer with flowers of yellow, orange, or rusty red. Even though they often bloom in January or early February, bees are drawn to their highly fragrant flowers.
- Forsythia** (*Forsythia x intermedia*, Zones 5-8) is another first-bloomer for bees that is easy to grow if given lots of sunlight. Their golden flowers are well-known and admired.

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