<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Honey &amp; Pollen Yields in Pounds Per Acre</th>
<th>Nectar / Pollen</th>
<th>Miscellaneous Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top Five” Plants for Honeybees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Borage</td>
<td><em>Borago officinalis</em></td>
<td>Annual herbaceous plant</td>
<td>200 pounds honey; 60-160 pounds pollen</td>
<td>Nectar</td>
<td>Self-seeding, medicinal plant that can over-winter. Young leaves and blue blossoms may be used in salads. Provides spring forage for honeybees, and blooms into the summer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Echium</td>
<td><em>Echium vulgare</em></td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>300 - 1,000 pounds honey, depending on soil. 500-2000 lbs of dark blue pollen.</td>
<td>Nectar; pollen is dark blue in color</td>
<td>In CA, Spring blooming plant with repeat bloom. Fall bloom provides nectar for bees for overwintering. The most unusual feature of <em>Echium vulgare</em> is the protection of the nectar inside the flower from vaporization (when it’s hot) or flushing away (when it rains). It is why almost for 2 months this plant is a stable source of nectar for bees. Additionally, this plant produces nectar throughout the day unlike most plants which produce nectar for a short period of time. If the bees have a good access to <em>Echium</em> they can collect between 12-20 lbs of nectar a day. The concentration of sugars in the nectar vary 22.6-48.3% depending on the quality of the soil, and not on the amount of rain. The honey is light amber in color and very fragrant with a pleasant taste, and does not crystallize for 9-15 months.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goldenrod</td>
<td><em>Solidago, various species; native preferred</em></td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>25 - 50 pounds honey</td>
<td>Mostly for nectar; pollen granules can be too big for honeybees, though will use it if nothing else available</td>
<td>Blooms July through September, and so is important for the timing of a colony preparing for winter. Long bloom period of 25 days; grows anywhere and can be invasive. Honey is dark amber, strong tasting, rich in protein and high in minerals. Medicinal plant that helps with fungus, especially in urinary tract.</td>
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<td>Honeybee Plants for an Ornamental Garden</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Melissa</strong>, also called Lemon Balm</td>
<td><em>Melissa officinallis</em></td>
<td>Perennial medicinal herb</td>
<td>150 - 250 pounds honey; 50-120 pounds pollen</td>
<td>Nectar</td>
<td>Prolonged bloom of 45 - 50 days generally in summer, but with repeat blooming in CA. Delicate honey with very light, pinkish color.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phacelia, Tansy</td>
<td><em>Phacelia tanacetifolia</em></td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>180 - 1,500 pounds honey, depending on soil quality and depth; 300-1000 pounds of pollen.</td>
<td>Nectar and pollen</td>
<td>One of the best spring forage sources for honeybees. Blooms 45-60 days and continuously produces nectar throughout the day. Can be seeded several times per year. Prefers three feet of topsoil.</td>
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<td><strong>Honeybee Plants for an Ornamental Garden</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Locust</td>
<td><em>Robinia pseudoacacia</em></td>
<td>Tree, large</td>
<td>800 - 1,200 pounds honey</td>
<td>Nectar</td>
<td>A consistently good nectar source year after year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asters</td>
<td>Aster, many varieties</td>
<td>Perennial flowers</td>
<td>30 - 50 pounds honey; 100 pounds pollen</td>
<td>Nectar and pollen</td>
<td>A good plant for late summer and fall, though should be planted in limited amounts. An advantage is that asters will go through frost to 28 degrees. A disadvantage is that honey from asters will crystallize very quickly, making it necessary to feed bees in the winter if the hive has too much honey from this one source.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clover, White Sweet</td>
<td><em>Melilotus alba</em></td>
<td>Annual cover crop and honeybee forage; can be perennial</td>
<td>200 - 300 pounds honey</td>
<td>Nectar and pollen</td>
<td>A top honeybee plant. Left alone and watered, can grow to 6 feet tall. Plant around garden border.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clover, Yellow Sweet</td>
<td><em>Melilotus officinalis</em></td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>300 - 400 pounds honey</td>
<td>Nectar and pollen</td>
<td>A top honeybee plant, which is nice to plant near the hives. Slightly higher nectar yield than white variety.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coltsfoot</td>
<td><em>Tussilago farfara</em></td>
<td>Perennial herb</td>
<td>25-35 pounds honey; 80-300 pounds high quality pollen</td>
<td>Nectar and pollen</td>
<td>Early spring source of pollen and nectar. Medicinally used as a cough suppressant. An important honeybee plant in Russia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coriander</td>
<td><em>Coriandrum sativum</em></td>
<td>Annual culinary herb</td>
<td>200 - 350 pounds honey; 100 - 150 pounds pollen</td>
<td>Nectar and pollen</td>
<td>An important essential oil plant. Varroa do not like the smell of coriander, so aids bees in ridding themselves of mites.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cornflower (also called Bachelor’s Button)</td>
<td>Centaurea cyanus</td>
<td>Annual flower</td>
<td>100 - 150 pounds honey</td>
<td>Nectar; small amount of white pollen</td>
<td>Attractive garden favorite with blue flower. 'Produces a pinkish-white honey. Petals are used medicinally for the heart.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elderberry</td>
<td>Sambucus nigra</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>20 - 60 pounds honey; 600 - 800 pounds pollen per acre</td>
<td>Nectar and excellent pollen source</td>
<td>Blooms for 10 - 15 days. <strong>Honeybees love the pollen.</strong> The annual variety of elderberry, <em>Sambucus ebulus</em>, is also a good honeybee plant.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fireweed</td>
<td>Chamerion angustifolium</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>800 pounds honey</td>
<td>Nectar and pollen</td>
<td>A unique and important, showy medicinal plant. Thrives in wild areas where there is a lot of ash in the soil, and is invasive in these conditions. Short-lived in a garden setting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hawthorne</td>
<td>Crataegus spp.</td>
<td>Tree</td>
<td>50 - 100 pounds honey; 200 pounds pollen</td>
<td>Nectar and pollen</td>
<td>Used medicinally for cardiovascular diseases. Honey is distinguished by being very fragrant.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hazelnut</td>
<td>Corylus spp.</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>200-500 pounds pollen</td>
<td>Pollen</td>
<td>Early spring source of pollen and nectar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather</td>
<td>Erica vulgaris, though many varieties</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>100 - 200 pounds honey</td>
<td>Nectar; the pollen granules can be too large for honeybees.</td>
<td>All varieties are very good. Has long bloom. Heather honey is reddish brown in color. Medicinal shrub.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lavender</td>
<td>Lavandula angustifolia, and many other species and varieties</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>70 - 120 pounds honey; 250 - 300 pounds pollen.</td>
<td>Nectar and pollen</td>
<td>An important essential oil plant. Varroa do not like the smell of lavender, so aids bees in ridding themselves of mites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linden (Lime in Europe)</td>
<td>Tilia spp, especially Tilia cordata</td>
<td>Tree, large</td>
<td>800 - 1,100 pounds honey</td>
<td>Nectar</td>
<td>Produces a high volume of honey on a cycle of every five to eight years, with lower volume of nectar other years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milkweed</td>
<td>Asclepias spp. (55 species)</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>120 - 250 pounds honey, depending on soil and if good fertilization</td>
<td>Nectar</td>
<td>All species are great for honeybees. Nectar is so abundant that it is possible to shake the blossom and actually see the nectar fall. <em>Asclepias syriaca</em> has the highest honey yield.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mint</td>
<td>Mentha piperata, though many species and varieties</td>
<td>Perennial herb</td>
<td>150 - 200 pounds honey; <em>Menta arvensis</em> has same nectar flow but more pollen, at 250 - 300 pounds</td>
<td>Nectar and pollen</td>
<td>Blooms for one month. An important essential oil plant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant</td>
<td>Scientific Name</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Honey Yield</td>
<td>Pollen Yield</td>
<td>Nectar &amp; Pollen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oak - English Oak,</td>
<td>Quercus robur</td>
<td>Tree, large</td>
<td>50 - 150</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>Nectar, pollen, honeydew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poppy, Opium</td>
<td>Papaver somniferum</td>
<td>Annual flower</td>
<td>20 - 30</td>
<td>80 - 120</td>
<td>Nectar and pollen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose, Wild - specifically &quot;Dog Rose&quot;</td>
<td>Rosa canina</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>20 - 30</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Nectar and pollen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunflowers</td>
<td>Helianthus spp.</td>
<td>Annual flower</td>
<td>30 - 100</td>
<td>200 - 250</td>
<td>Nectar and pollen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thyme</td>
<td>Thymus serpyllum, a wild creeping thyme, though many additional species and varieties</td>
<td>Perennial herb</td>
<td>50 - 150</td>
<td>200 - 250</td>
<td>Nectar and pollen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulips - old species</td>
<td>Tulipa spp.</td>
<td>Bulb</td>
<td>20 - 50</td>
<td>300 - 400</td>
<td>Nectar (some) and dark, almost black, pollen in old species tulips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valerian</td>
<td>Valeriana officinalis</td>
<td>Perennial herb</td>
<td>60 - 70</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nectar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veronica</td>
<td>Veronica officinalis</td>
<td>Perennial herb</td>
<td>30 - 35</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Nectar and pollen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow</td>
<td>Salix caprea preferred, though many other species</td>
<td>Shrub initially, then becomes slow growing tree</td>
<td>100 - 150</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>Nectar and pollen</td>
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</tbody>
</table>