During the summer months, Canadians finally have a chance to relax and enjoy the sun. There is no better way to embrace the warm weather than planting a beautiful flower garden. Not only will it enhance the curb appeal and aesthetics of your front lawn but planting pollinator friendly gardens can act as a great food source for pollinators like honey bees.

Tip #1: Planning is everything

There are many things to consider before you start planting. Think about the space, colour, sunlight and fit. It's important to pick a planting location that achieves the best sunlight for the flowers that you want to plant. Thinking about these factors beforehand will ensure that your flowers have the best possible growing environment to set them up for success.

Tip #2: Bee friendly

For honey bees, summer means working tirelessly to find food, to sustain themselves and their entire colony before another winter begins.

Worker bees spend their days traveling from flower to flower collecting as much pollen and nectar as they can. But without a plentiful supply of blooming flowers, honey bees might not get the right nutrition and the cold months can be devastating on a hive.

Tip #3: Choose pollinator friendly flowers

Planting pollinator-friendly gardens are a great way to help honey bees find the food they need. Whether you live in a house or apartment building, you can dedicate a small part of your garden, balcony or rooftop to flowers that feed pollinators like honey bees. Consider plants like: lance-leaved coreopsis, sneezeweed, New England asters, dense blazing stars and golden tickseed.

Tip #4: Get the right seeds

There are pollinator garden programs like Buzzing Gardens, which provides free pollinator-friendly seeds with an online sign-up at www.beesmatter.ca.



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