



ALBERTA BEEKEEPERS COMMISSION
TECHTRANSFER
PROGRAM



ALBERTA
BEEKEEPERS
COMMISSION

FORAGE FINDER

This guide highlights the bloom times for key honey bee forage sources across Southern, Central, and Northern Alberta. It includes native, naturalized, and agricultural plants that provide essential nectar and pollen throughout the beekeeping season.

Adapted from:

Ramsey, J. (2025). Plants for Beekeeping in Canada and Northern USA.

Other references:

Pollinator Partnership. Selecting Plants for Pollinators. <https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/en/ecoregional-planting-guides>

Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society. Recommended Native Flowering Species for Pollinators in the Boreal Forest of Alberta.

<https://www.awes-ab.ca/publications/recommended-native-pollinator-friendly-plants-for-the-boreal-forest-region-of-alberta/>

Natural Resources Canada. (n.d.). Plant Hardiness of Canada. <https://planthardiness.gc.ca/?m=1&lang=e>

Nature Alberta. (2022). Natural regions of Alberta [Map]. <https://naturealberta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Natural-regions-2022.png>



**Sustainable Canadian
Agricultural Partnership**



Plant species were selected for each region based on their prevalence and value as forage for honey bees. This list is representative, not exhaustive. For more extensive lists, view the resources listed on the previous page.



Willow



Dandelion



Saskatoon



Canola



Sainfoin



Sunflower



Clover



Sweet Clover



Hawk's Beard



Alfalfa



Wild Bergamot



Common Yarrow



Goldenrod



Aster



Hoary Cinquefoil



Raspberry



Prairie Coneflower



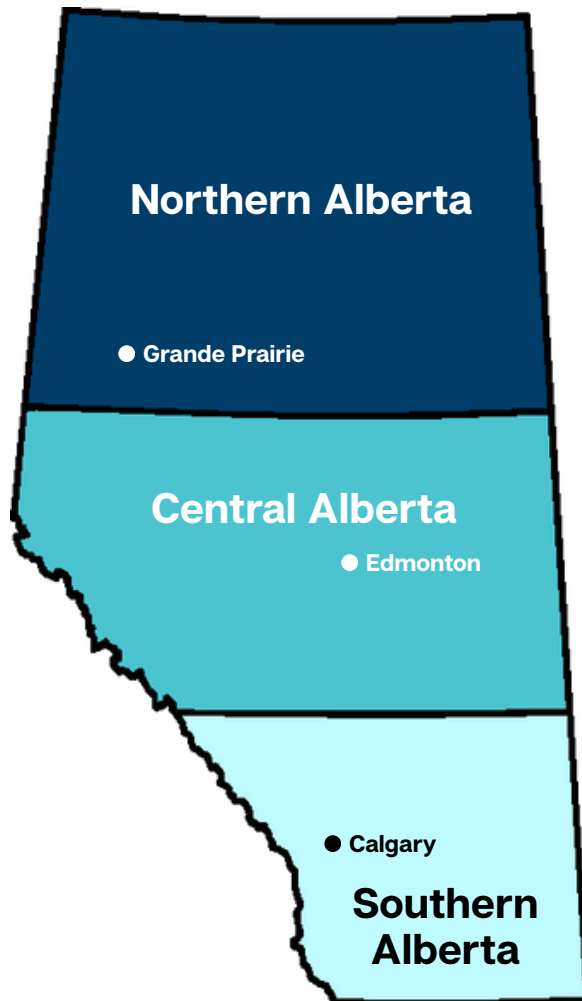
Currants/Goosberries



Mint



Fireweed



Regions are adapted from the plant hardiness zones and natural subregions of Alberta

Natural Subregion

Plant Hardiness Zone

Northern Alberta

Upper Boreal Highlands	1a-1b
Lower Boreal Highlands	1b-2a
Athabasca Plain	2a
Peace–Athabasca Delta	2a
Northern Mixedwood	2a-2b
Central Mixedwood	2a-2b
Dry Mixedwood	2a-2b

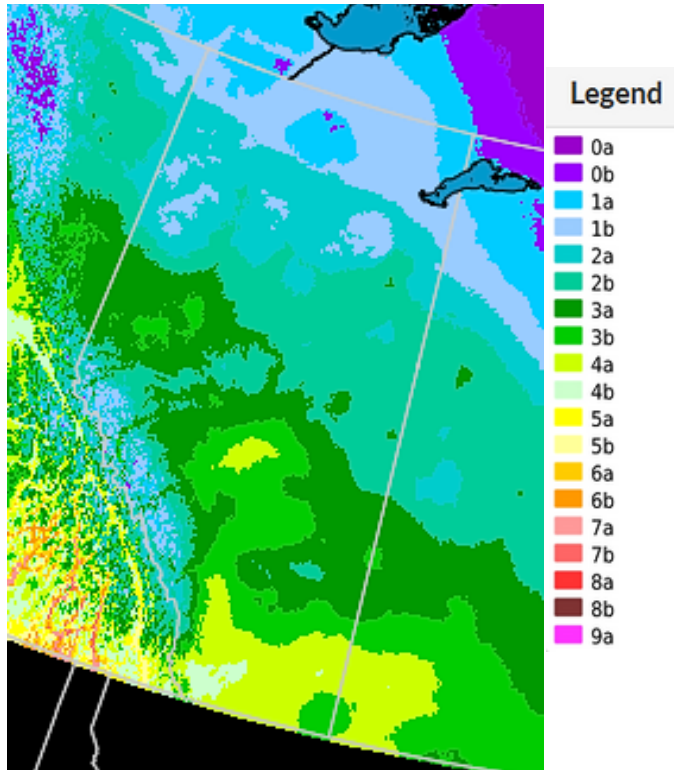
Central Alberta

Upper Foothills	2a-2b
Lower Foothills	2b-3a
Alpine	1b-2a
Subalpine	2a-2b
Montane	3a
Dry Mixedwood	2a-2b
Central Mixedwood	2a-2b
Parkland	2b-3b
Fescue	3a-3b
Dry Mixedgrass	4a-5a

Southern Alberta

Fescue	3a-3b
Dry Mixedgrass	4a-5a
Mixedgrass	3b-4a
Alpine	1b-2a
Subalpine	2a-2b
Montane	3a

Plant Hardiness Zones of Alberta



Natural Resources Canada. (n.d.). Plant Hardiness of Canada. <https://planthardiness.gc.ca/?m=1&lang=e>

Natural Regions of Alberta

Grasslands

- Dry Mixedgrass
- Mixedgrass
- Fescue

Parkland

- Parkland

Rocky Mountain

- Alpine
- Subalpine
- Montane

Foothills

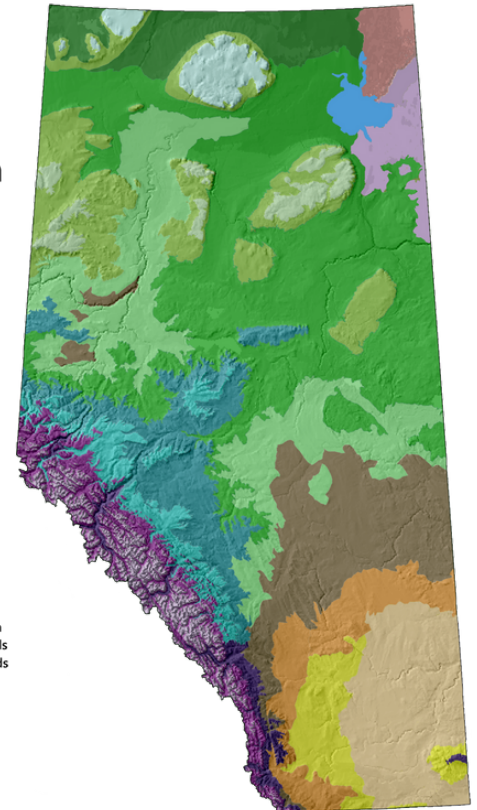
- Lower Foothills
- Upper Foothills

Boreal Forest

- Dry Mixedwood
- Central Mixedwood
- Northern Mixedwood
- Boreal Subarctic
- Peace-Athabasca Delta
- Lower Boreal Highlands
- Upper Boreal Highlands
- Athabasca Plain

Shield

- Kazan Uplands



Nature Alberta. (2022). Natural regions of Alberta [Map]. <https://naturealberta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Natural-regions-2022.png>

Southern Alberta

[illegible]

Central Alberta

[illegible]

Northern Alberta

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