**HOME&STYLE**

**Planting for Bees**

A bee on a flower plant. In Peter Lindner's book, he includes a 5-star rating of each plant for both pollen and nectar, with notes about each.

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**FORMER HAGLEY HORTICULTURIST**

Peter Lindner remembers standing under a 400-year-old linden tree in his native Czechoslovakia as a boy, listening to the hum of bees.


**BACKYARD GARDENER**

Peter Lindner remembers standing under a 400-year-old linden tree in his native Czechoslovakia as a boy, listening to the hum of bees.

The beekeeper who lived nearby harvested so much honey that year that his father and wife ran out of containers to hold it and eventually resorted to wine barrels.

Bees and beehive culture have held a lifelong fascination for Lindner, who undertook apiculture with his first hive at age 14. Although he would go on to become the head horticulturist at the E.I. DuPont garden at Hagley Museum for 35 years, his current study of honey bees has remained his passion.

The culmination of that love in "Garden Plants for Honey Bees," the book Lindner calls his lifetime accomplishment.

"I dreamed of doing this book for 35 years, of zeroing in on what is the most important ingredient to a successful beekeeper: I wrote it to help beekeepers, or anyone who has a little land to plant so the bees will visit," he says.

Laid out according to the bee calendar—February until November—it combines his love and skill with bees, horticulture and photography, as Lindner is an accomplished photographer and horticulturist.

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**Bees**

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...involves focusing on the key ingredients to attract honey bees to your garden... the right plants.

Through years of observation and study, not only at Hagley, but at numerous public gardens and arboreta, especially Longwood Gardens, Lindner has discovered that bees prefer plants that provide abundant nectars and pollen. These are very efficient insects, going after the most convenient and accessible food sources available.

What constitutes a good nectar and pollen source? In easy-to-find, sunny areas, the answer is often a low-maintenance host of bees and butterflies, a row of daisies, a field of clover.

Monthly by month, Lindner accu-
rate photographs and minimal text is illus-
trated the bee foraging year. Because bees are social insects, meaning they visit only a few species of plant all day, he includes a 5-star rating of each plant for both pollen and nectar, with notes about each.

One of the plants that Lindner picked out for his book is the bee's favorite, the rose. In his book, Lindner suggests growing roses in a variety of shapes and sizes, with notes about each.

In his book, Lindner uses even more photos than text to illustrate the bee foraging year.

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**TO DO LIST**

- Visit the Delaware Beekeepers Association (delawarebeekkeepers.com).
- Study and learn about bee culture.
- Meet with at least two hives.
- Tend a "keep" with a helper and beekeeper.
- Provide a water source for bees.
- Refrain from using chemicals/herbicides anywhere on your property.

"Bees are not evil. It's better to have 10,000 bees in your garden than one with 2,000," he says.

The best thing a beekeeper can do is provide for pollinators: pollinators need access to nectar and pollen sources through the plants in your garden. To those nearby Lincoln, he included in his book the bee's favorite plant, the rose, with notes about each.

Peter Lindner's "Garden Plants for Honey Bees."