



Bee supportive! Plant in the fall to offer tasty pollen and nectar to early bees in the spring.

Fall's cool temperatures and extra moisture give plants a head start. In the spring, the days may be warm but the soil is cold but in the fall, the soil is still warm and that's a real advantage. So, fall is a good time to put in hardy, perennial and native plants like Black-eyed Susans, echinacea and milkweed.

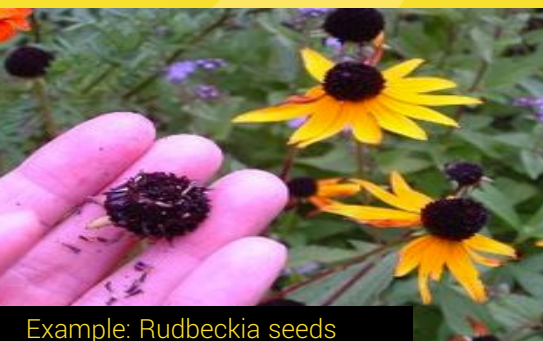


Hail to the Queen

Early spring flowers are essential for queen bumble bees emerging from hibernation. No flowers for queens means no food, which means no bumble bees later! So in the fall, plant more flowers for the queen bumble bees in your gardens. Early blooms that bumbles love include crocus, grape hyacinth, violas, wild primrose, willows and flowering current bushes.

Time to chill

Many native plants need the cold of winter to break their dormancy and trigger germination. Without the cold moist winter, the seeds don't germinate. That's why some plants will not grow from seeds sown in the spring, though they may germinate the next year or even the second year. In the wild, dormancy is broken by spending time in the ground through the winter so that the hard seed coat is softened by frost and weathering. This cold moist period triggers the seed's embryo to grow and eventually break through the softened seed coat as it reaches for the sun. This is true for species like Rudbeckia or Black-eyed Susans.



Example: Rudbeckia seeds
(Black-eyed Susans)

Moving and Grooving

Fall is also the best time to divide and transplant plants. They can be moved or planted at any time, so long as the soil and air are still warm and there is enough season left for the roots to establish. Make sure to give adequate and regular water for the first year while the ground is not frozen. Then check in the spring to make sure the frost has not heaved the plant out of the ground.