

Lavender, chives, thyme, borage, and asters native to your area can make thoughtful living gifts that offer bees nectar or pollen. Pick plants that suit the recipient's climate and growing space, then combine choices that bloom at different points in the season.

## Blooms bees can reach

Bees collect nectar and pollen from flowers, though the shape of a bloom can make these resources easier or harder to access. Chives produce round purple flower heads above leaves that can be used in cooking, and their blossoms attract several kinds of bees. Thyme's tiny flowers also receive bee visitors. Lavender adds fragrant flower spikes that can draw bees while it is blooming.

Borage bears blue flowers shaped like stars, which bees visit readily. It is easy to grow from seed, but the plant can become broad and sprawling. It may also spread around the garden from seed, so check that the recipient has room before making it the gift. A small plant can have big ambitions.

Native asters can offer bees flowers later in the season. Since the right species depends on the location, ask a nearby nursery or native plant group which asters grow naturally in the area. Flowering dates vary with both species and place, so do not count on an aster being in bloom on Mother's Day itself.

## Match the plant to its home

A plant has a better chance of doing well if its new home meets its needs. Lavender and thyme usually grow best in sunny places with soil that drains well. Chives prefer sun too, but can manage some shade. Read the care label for the specific plant, and find out how much light and space the recipient can provide.

Flowering herbs in a pot may work well on a balcony or patio if they get enough light and the container has drainage holes. For someone with a garden, consider a flowering plant native to the local area. Native plants often help local insects, but their growing requirements are not all the same. Choose one that suits the garden's soil and other conditions.

## Assemble a thoughtful plant gift

1. Look for a plant with firm stems and healthy leaves. One with both buds and open flowers may keep its display going longer.
2. Ask how it was grown. Avoid plants treated with pesticides that may harm bees. If the treatment history is uncertain, ask for more information.
3. Set the nursery pot inside a decorative container, or choose a pot with drainage holes and a saucer. Keep water from sitting around the roots.
4. Include a short care note. Name the plant, explain its light and watering needs, and say which season it is expected to flower.

## Help the gift keep helping

After its indoor display, the plant will generally need an appropriate outdoor place to benefit visiting bees. If it has been inside, move it outdoors gradually. Continue to follow its instructions for light and watering rather than guessing and hoping for the best.

For herbs, leave some flower stems to open instead of cutting every one for cooking. Do not apply insecticides to plants that are flowering, and make space for blooms at other times of the year. A few suitable plants can be a lasting present for someone dear and a useful place for bees to feed.

You may also like https://tiffest.com/flowers-on-set-and-at-premieres-how-events-use-floral-design/