

Native Plants for Wild Bee Conservation

Fact Sheet: Harebell, Bluebell Bellflower

Scientific name: *Campanula rotundifolia* L.



Harebell was one of nine plant species used in research evaluating native perennial wildflower plantings for supporting wild bees and improving crop pollination on farmlands in Montana.

Family: Campanulaceae
Life cycle: perennial
Growth habit: forb/herb

Flower color: blue to violet, but sometimes white
Flower shape: bell-shaped flowers with fused petals; many flowers per plant
Foliage: medium green, heart-shaped basal leaves and linear, grass-like leaves on delicate stems
Height: 6-18 inches
Bloom period: June-September

Habitat: Grows in a variety of environments throughout its range including meadows, prairies, grasslands, woodlands, rocky mountain slopes, cliffs, and rock crevices. Found from low to high elevations.

Growing conditions: full to part sun; dry to moderately moist, well-drained rocky to sandy soil; drought tolerant once established; great for rock gardens.

Establishment: Seed does not require pre-treatment to break dormancy. For this project, we grew plants from seed in the greenhouse and transplanted them to the field as plugs in Spring. Plants flowered some during the year they were planted, and abundantly so the following two years. Overwintering success was moderate to high depending on the farm. Seed collecting was easy, though plants continued to bloom as they also set mature seed. Plants readily self-seeded.

For more information on native plants: Visit the USDA-NRCS PLANTS database or the Montana Native Plant Society website.

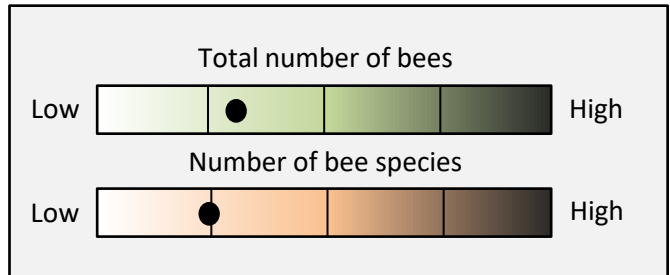


Photo: C.M. Delphia

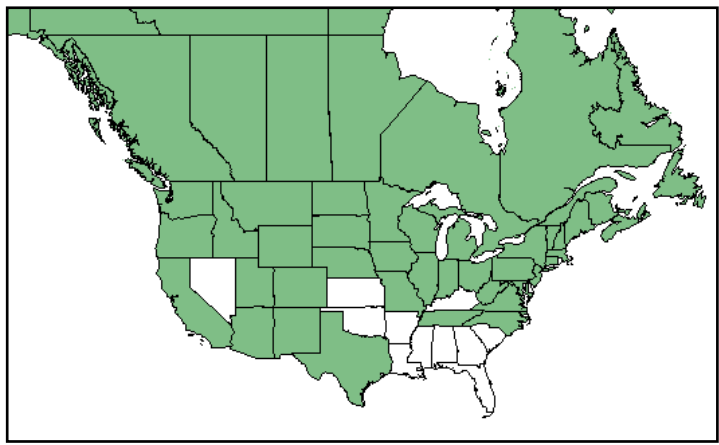


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Bee visitation: Bumble bees, green sweat bees, banded sweat bees, small dark sweat bees, small carpenter bees, cellophane bees, leafcutting bees, masked bees, and cuckoo bees.



Relative attractiveness of *C. rotundifolia* across farms over 2 years.



Campanula rotundifolia distribution from USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database