

# Native Plants for Wild Bee Conservation

## Fact Sheet: Sticky Geranium

Scientific name: *Geranium viscosissimum* Fisch. & C.A. Mey. ex C.A. Mey.



Sticky geranium 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:** Geraniaceae

**Life cycle:** annual/perennial

**Growth habit:** forb/herb

**Flower color:** light pink, but sometimes white or dark pink

**Flower shape:** open clusters of saucer-shaped flowers

**Foliage:** medium green, mostly basal, deeply, palmately-lobed, toothed leaves with sticky glandular hairs

**Height:** 1-3 feet

**Bloom period:** May-August

**Habitat:** Grows in a variety of environments throughout its range including woodlands, open forests, meadows, prairies, grasslands, and roadsides. Found from low to high elevations.

**Growing conditions:** full to part sun; dry to moist well-drained soil; prefers loamy to clayey soil, but can also tolerate gravelly soil; drought tolerant once established.

**Establishment:** Seed requires scarification with sand paper and soaking in water for 24-48 h to help 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 high on all farms. Seed collecting was difficult because this species actively disperses its seed (i.e., ballistic dispersal); therefore netting was used to capture seeds before the seed pods shattered.

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

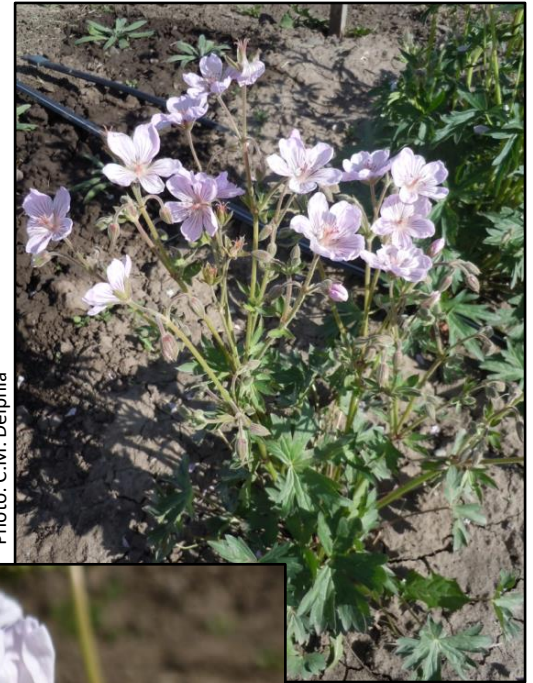
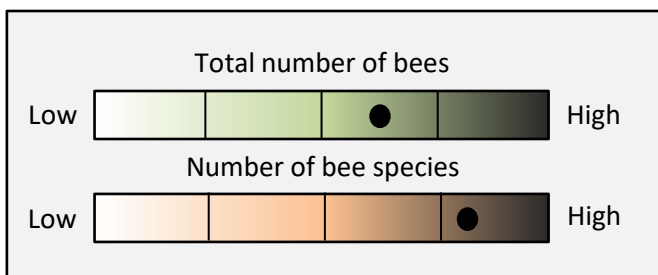


Photo: C.M. Delphia

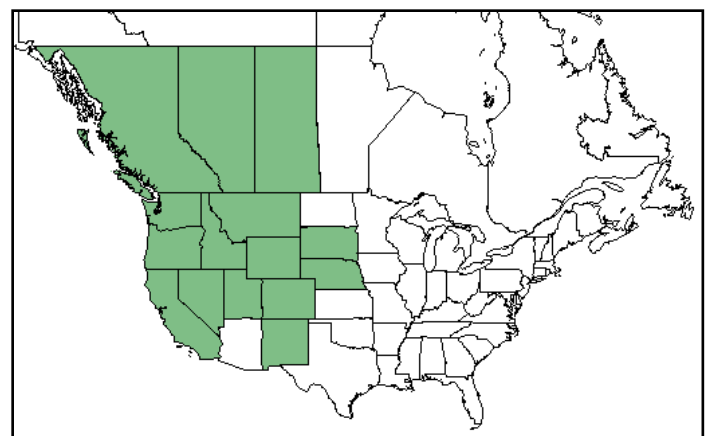


Photo: C.M. Delphia

**Bee visitation:** Bumble bees, medium and small mining bees, green sweat bees, banded sweat bees, small dark sweat bees, small carpenter bees, cellophane bees, sunflower bees, mason bees, leafcutting bees, resin bees, masked bees, long-horn bees, and cuckoo bees.



Relative attractiveness of *G. viscosissimum* across farms over 2 years.



*Geranium viscosissimum* distribution from USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database