Big 5: Plants to Attract Pollinators to Your Garden

These ***'Big 5'*** Australian native plants are favourites of native bees and many other local pollinators: perfect for ***your home garden....***

Blue Tongue *(Melastoma affine)*

Prolific mauve flowers most of the year with sweet, edible fruit that turns the tongue blue. Nectar and pollen are especially suited to 'buzz' pollinator native bees – e.g. Blue-banded and Carpenter bees.

Cultivation: Fast growing to 2m; enjoys part shade and moist soil.

Finger Lime *(Citrus australasica)*

White flowers emerge from pink buds, summer to autumn. Intense, lime fruit used in drinks, salads and seafoods. Plentiful nectar and pollen attract a range of native pollinators.

Cultivation: Slow growth to 2m; prefers protected position in part shade and moist soil.

Lemon Myrtle (*Backhousia citroidera*)

Masses of small white flowers form in clusters, spring to autumn; leaves used for tea and cooking; antimicrobial oil repels insects and is used in scents. Attracts many native pollinators – e.g. stingless native bees that produce honey.

Cultivation: Fast growing to 6m – can be contained in a pot, or pruned; full sun/part shade and well-drained soil.

Midgenberry (*Austromyrtus dulcis*)

Masses of small white flowers, spring to summer; followed by sweet, tasty, edible fruits, used in fruit salads. Pollen, nectar and fruit lure birds and insects, especially buzz pollinating and stingless native bees. Provides habitat for native animals.

Cultivation: Low, hardy shrub to 1m; full sun/part shade and well-drained soil. Ideal for mass ground cover planting.

Blue Flax Lily (*Dianella caerulea*)

Strap-like leaves, attractive mauve and white flowers, spring to summer; purple, sweet berries (caution: edible in small amounts only). Attracts stingless and leafcutter native bees. Fruit attracts birds and native animals.

Cultivation: Low, hardy, fast growing shrub to 1.3m. Full sun/part shade and well-drained soil. Ideal for mass planting as a ground cover.