



Star Performers

Pip Fruit Trees in the Rose family

Malus spp.
Apples

Pyrus spp.
Pears

Cydonia oblonga
Quince

Chaenomeles japonica
Flowering Quince

In the Rose family, the pip fruit trees, (e.g. pears, apples, crab-apples, and quinces) are Star Performers because of their massive flower density and high protein content in the pollen (22% – 28%). Trees are deciduous and flower in spring with different early and late varieties.

This heritage pear tree in full bloom benefits bees hugely.
Photo Jean-Noël Galliot © Trees for Bees NZ



Pollen: In the common edible pear (*Pyrus communis*) the anthers open sequentially all day long so you will see bees buzzing in the flowers at any time of day. The high density of flowers and numerous whorls of stamens in each flower generate enormous quantities of pollen per tree.



Pear flower with bee collecting pollen. Anthers in all stages of opening deliver pollen throughout the day.
Photo Jean-Noël Galliot © Trees for Bees NZ

Nectar: Pear flowers have the classic “open dish” shape with nectar in the centre at the base of the pistil surrounded by whorls of stamens -- the epitome of easy access. The other pip fruit species, apples, crab apples, edible quinces and flowering quinces have almost identical flowers with easy access.



Pear flower with bee taking nectar. The bee “tongue” (proboscis) is extended into the centre sipping nectar. -
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