

Gardening for Pollinators

Remember the pollinators when you garden this season.



Pollinators Need Your Help!

Our food crops worldwide depend on pollinators for a successful harvest. Research shows that in the past decade the population of many pollinators are in serious decline, especially bees. Scientists and regulators have grown increasingly concerned about the impact of colony collapse disorder on the world's food supply, given that the majority of the planet's 100 most important food crops depend on insect pollination.

Scientists Report,

that it is difficult to determine the exact cause of why our pollinator species are declining. Many explanations have been invoked including, habitat loss, introduced diseases, pollution, pesticides, parasites, and genetic alterations.

What is Pollination?

Pollination is the process of moving pollen from one flower same species, which produces fertile seed. Almost all flow-be pollinated. Some plants are pollinated by wind or water, self-pollinated. However, most flowering plants depend on animals for pollination.

Who Are Our Pollinators?

Bees, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, beetles, and even bats all pollinate our flowers. However, bees pollinate flowers more than any other group.

Why Should We Care?

When a bumble bee feeds on the nectar and pollen of blueberry flowers, it pollinates the flowers, which will produce fruit eaten by songbirds, black bears, and dozens of other animals, including humans. We call the bumble bee a *key-stone species* because they are species upon which others depend.

Pollinators are vital,

to maintaining healthy ecosystems. They are essential for plant reproduction, and produce genetic diversity in the plants they pollinate. The more diverse plants are, the better they can adapt to changes in the environment.

Pollinators are responsible for:
All kinds of fruits, vegetables, grains, nuts, and beans.



Even coffee and choco-

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What do hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, moths and bats have in common?

They all pollinate flowering plants.

References:
Pollinators.org
US Fish & Wildlife Service
US Forest Service

When planning your garden -
Think like a pollinator



- Go Native.
- Bee Bountiful.
- Go Diverse.
- Bee Showy.
- Bee Chemical Free.
- Bee Aware.
- Bee Patient.
- Bee Friendly.

We Can All Help!



The good news is that even one home garden can begin to repair the web of life. You can work with nature when you garden, no matter where you live, whether you garden in the city or in a suburban area, a 20-acre farm, or in containers at your condominium.

Here are some simple things you can do at home to encourage pollinator diversity and abundance.

The most obvious need for pollinating species is a diversity of nectar and pollen sources. Consider the following when choosing plants for your garden:

Choose plants that flower at different times of the year to provide nectar and pollen sources throughout the growing season.

Plant in clumps, rather than single plants, to better attract pollinators.

Provide a variety of flower colors and shapes to attract different pollinators.

Do not forget that night-blooming flowers will support moths and bats.

Whenever possible, choose native plants.

Native plants will attract more native pollinators and can serve as larval host plants for some species of pollinators.

Avoid or Limit Pesticide Use.

Pesticides can kill more than the target pest. Some pesticide residues can kill pollinators for several days after the pesticide is applied. Pesticides can also kill natural predators, which can lead to even worse pest problems.

Consider the following when managing pests in your garden: Try removing individual pests by hand if possible (wearing garden gloves). Encourage native predators with a diverse garden habitat. Expect and accept a little bit of pest activity.

If you must use a pesticide, choose one that is the least toxic to non-pest species, does not persist on vegetation, and apply it in the evening when most pollinators are not as active. Read and follow label directions carefully.



Learn more about pollinators.

Get some guidebooks and learn to recognize the pollinators in your neighborhood. Experiment with different plant species, and different natural insect and weed controls— learn which works best to keep a natural balance for the environment.

Teach Others

Help other people learn about pollinators and native plants. Share your experiences and what you have learned.



Phlox divaricata



Aquilegia canadensis



Aster nova-angliae



Ratibida pinnata



Monarda fistulosa



Baptisia australis



Echinacea purpurea



Lobelia cardinalis