

Pollinator Garden Tips

Ways WE can support pollinators

Many pollinator populations are in decline and this decline is attributed most severely to a loss in feeding and nesting habitats. How can we support pollinators?

Choose heavy pollen and nectar-producing plants

- Pollinators tend to prefer native plants that have higher pollen and nectar resources compared to native cultivated varieties ('nativars')
- Ornamentals, annual bedding plants, and garden herbs can also be good sources of pollen and nectar
- Trees are important too, especially early in the year



Plant a variety of flowers, for season-long blooming, and blossom shapes

- Different pollinators are attracted to different types of flowers and different pollinators are active at different times of the year
- Avoid heavily modified flowers such as double blooms

Plant in clumps rather than single plants

- Groupings of plants are more attractive than solitary plants

Be willing to accept plant damage

- Leafcutter bees cut up leaves and caterpillars will eat foliage

Provide habitat for nesting and egg-laying such as:

- Provide layers in the landscape. Shrubs, tall grasses, and low growing plants – different pollinators prefer different layers
- Small patches of bare ground, loose sandy soils, slopes or embankments – 70% of native bees nest in the ground
- Allow an untidy garden. Leave 12-18" of flower stems behind – 30% of native bees nest above ground in cavities like hollow flower stems
- Leave dead tree trunks in your landscape for wood-nesting bees and beetles



Rethink the use of pesticides

- Follow Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, use pesticides only when necessary
- Don't apply to plants when they are in bloom
- Apply when pollinators are less active – dawn & dusk
- Avoid drift and runoff
- Select pesticides known to be less harmful to pollinators



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