Pollinator Gardens!

Helping Nature Help You

What is a *pollinator garden*?

- Pollinators are insects that transfer pollen from one flower to another usually in the process of collecting nectar and/or pollen for themselves.
- Pollinator Gardens are collections of flowers and shrubs that attract pollinators, such as butterflies and bees, to a specific location.

Why are *pollinators* important to ANY garden?

- The endangered honeybee pollinates ¾ of what we eat.
- Pollinators play a significant role in the production of more than 150 food crops in the United States, such as apples, alfalfa, almonds, blueberries, cranberries, kiwis, melons, pears, plums, and squash.
- Few plants can pollinate via wind, or on their own, so the pollinators are necessary for many plants to create fruit and flowers within any garden.
- In addition to increasing pollinator habitat and green-space in your community, eliminate pesticides in the garden!

Who are the *Pollinators*??

- Bees: There are over 25,000 different species of bees in the world, and 3,950 species in the United States alone. Bees have preferences for different types of flowers. To help bees through winter, grow common hazel or witch hazel. In summer, let herbs like basil and dill go to flower and grow anise hyssop for bee health. Anise Hyssop is native to North-central U.S. In fall, Aster helps bees build up stores of food.
- Butterflies: Butterflies prefer different varieties of nectar, in both color and taste, than bees. Plant a wide variety of plants for both nectar production and hosting caterpillars, the butterfly's larval stage. Put some flowers in a sunny spot because butterflies love to be warm and soak up the Sun.
- Hummingbirds: They prefer bright red flowers that have a cone or trumpet like shape.
- About 200,000 invertebrate species, including bees, moths, butterflies, beetles, and flies serve as pollinators, as well as about 1,000 species of vertebrates, including birds, mammals and reptiles.

Nectar Plants*

- bee balm, Monarda spp.
- black-eyed Susan, Rudbeckia spp.
- bluebeard, Caryopteris
- coneflower, Echinacea spp.
- coreopsis, Coreopsis spp.
- dogbane, Apocynum spp.
- goldenrod, Solidage spp.
- ironweed, Vernonia spp.
- Joe Pye weed, Eupatorium fistulosum
- lantana, Viburnum spp.
- marigold, Tagete spp.(single petal varieties)
- milkweed, Asclepias spp.
- New England aster, Aster novae-angliae
- phlox, Phlox spp.
- pincushion flower, Scabiosa spp.
- pink live-forever, Sedum alboroseum
- sweet William, Dianthus barbatus
- thistles, Centaurea and Cirsium sp.
- verbena, Verbena spp.
- white alyssum, Alyssum spp.
- zinnia, Zinnia spp.

Host Plants*

- daisies
- hackberry
- citrus plants
- parsley
- fennel
- dill
- rue
- violets
- turtlehead, plantain
- Queen Anne's lace
- snapdragon
- hops
- nettles
- wild cherry
- aster
- passion flower vine
- milkweed
- willow
- clover
- hollyhock
- mallow
- spicebush
- sassafras
- pawpaw

The following are shrubs whose blooms provide nectar:*

- butterfly bush, Buddleia spp.
- fruit trees, various
- lilac, Syringa vulgaris
- privet, Ligustrum spp.
- redbud, Cercis canadensis
- rose of Sharon, Hibisucs syriacus
- spicebush, Spirea spp.
- sumacs, Rhus spp.

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- **Native and non-native species are represented.**