

WHAT DO POLLINATORS NEED IN A GARDEN?



FOOD

Nectar and Pollen Sources - Pollinators need a diversity of nectar and pollen sources to sustain them.

- ✿ Focus on pollinator friendly **native** plants;
- ✿ Provide nectar and pollen from early spring to late fall by selecting a variety of flowering plants;
- ✿ Provide a variety of flower shapes and sizes;
- ✿ Choose old-fashioned heirloom varieties and limit the use of modern hybrids (eg) single petal flowers are better than double;
- ✿ Place plants in groups of 3 or more;
- ✿ Ask for pesticide-free plants at your nursery

Caterpillar Food Sources - Include plants that are caterpillar food sources (host plants)

- ✿ Native shrubs and trees
- ✿ Grasses, flowers and herbs that butterfly larvae (caterpillars) need to survive
- ✿ Ask for pesticide-free plants at your nursery.



WATER

All pollinators need freshwater.

- ✿ A birdbath or other shallow dish of water
- ✿ A freshwater stream running through or near your property
- ✿ A simple butterfly puddling area (a mud puddle!)
- ✿ A water garden or pond



SHELTER

Pollinators need places to nest and to overwinter.

- ✿ Spaces of bare ground, leaf litter
- ✿ Homemade or purchased shelter and nest boxes
- ✿ Stone wall (or pile of rocks)
- ✿ Fallen trees or logs

Wait until spring to clean up your leaves and last year's fallen plant stalks. When you see the first bumble bee, it means your cleanup will not disturb nesting areas.

SAFE HABITAT

Native plants good! Exotics not-so-good.

Pollinators and native plants have a long history together and they have developed a survival relationship with each other. In some cases, exotic plants may be considered harmful invasive species if they have aggressive growth habits and are found growing in the wild. Best to plant native plants that pollinators need for survival.

- ✿ Make it native - strive for 80% native: 20% non-native;
- ✿ Remove exotic invasive plants currently on your property and replace with native species.
- ✿ Keep some areas natural
- ✿ Don't use pesticides - even "green" pesticides can be toxic to bees



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