

Suggested Plant List

Plant Name	Full Sun	Semi-shade	Well drained soil	Moisture retentive soil	Dry soil	Rich soil- high organic material	Nutrient Poor soil	Can be aggressive
Agastache foeniculum	X	X	X		X			
Echinacea purpurea	X		X			X		
Helianthus annuus	X							
Lobelia cardinalis	X		X	X		X		
Lobelia siphilitica	X	X		X		X		
Pycnanthemum nutticum	X	X	X	X			X	X
Monarda didyma, Monarda fistulosa	X	X						X
Asclepias tuberosa	X		X		X		X	
Zizia aptera	X	X			X			
Symphoricaricum laeve	X	X		X	X			

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Swallowtail butterfly on Echinacea purpurea

Penn State Master Gardener
<http://horticulture.psu.edu/node/202>

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Pollinator Friendly Gardening



A Penn State Master Gardener Project

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Häagen-Dazs loves Honey Bees

Gardening for Pollinators



Follow these simple steps to create a “pollinator friendly” landscape around your home or workplace.

◆ You do not need a lot of space

A few containers, of the right kinds of plants tucked into your existing garden or a small designated “pollinator friendly” garden, will get you started. Most pollinator plants need at least 6 hours of sunlight a day.

◆ Use a wide variety of plants that bloom from early spring into late fall

Help pollinators find and use them by planting in clusters or drifts of the same plant. Use plants native to your region, as natives are four times more attractive to pollinators. Include a variety of flower shapes to attract different kinds of pollinators.

◆ Include larval host plants in your landscape

If you want colorful butterflies, grow plants for caterpillars.

Caterpillars WILL eat these host plants, so place them where leaf damage can be tolerated. Realize that some host plants are less than ornamental.



◆ Avoid modern hybrid flowers, especially those with “doubled” flowers

Often plant breeders have unwittingly left the pollen, nectar and fragrance out of these blossoms while creating the “perfect” blooms for us.

◆ Eliminate pesticides whenever possible

If you must use a pesticide, use the least-toxic material possible. Before purchasing, read labels carefully, as many pesticides

are especially dangerous for bees. Always use the product according to label instructions. Spray after dusk when bees and other pollinators are not active.



◆ Provide water

Pollinators will gather at shallow pools or very shallow bird baths. Water seeping to create mud puddles will benefit mason bees. Mud puddles also provide important minerals for pollinators, including butterflies. Try adding a quarter inch of sand to a saucer. Add water until the sand is slightly covered. A few flat stones that rise above the water will give visiting pollinators easy access to the water.

◆ Leave bare ground for ground nesting bees; go easy on the rototilling

Very few bees can nest in manicured lawns. Leave a 3’ by 3’ spot of bare ground in a sunny location. Ground nesting bees may use the same nesting locations for many years if undisturbed.

◆ Leave garden cleanup until spring

(Except for diseased plant material that should be removed and destroyed.)

Many beneficial insects overwinter in the dried stalks of plants. Do not remove dried hollow plant stems until late spring. Native ornamental grasses are good protection from winter winds for birds and small mammals. The seed will be welcome food for birds when normal food sources are gone.

◆ Remove invasive species

Invasive species displace important pollinator plants. Don’t plant invasives. Remove existing invasives before they escape to natural areas.

Some websites and references



Haagen-Dazs Help the Honey Bees

<http://www.helpthehoneybees.com/>

Xerces Society

www.xerces.org

U.S. Forest Service Pollinator website

<http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/index.shtml>

Discover Life

<http://www.discoverlife.org/>

Natural Resources Conservation Services

<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/WHMI/WEB/pdf/TechnicalLeaflets/NativePollinators.pdf>

Center for Pollinator Research

<http://ento.psu.edu/pollinators/public-outreach>