

Plant List

Many of the plants listed are host plants for various butterflies and moths and are noted with an (H).

Good perennial & biennial pollinator plants include:

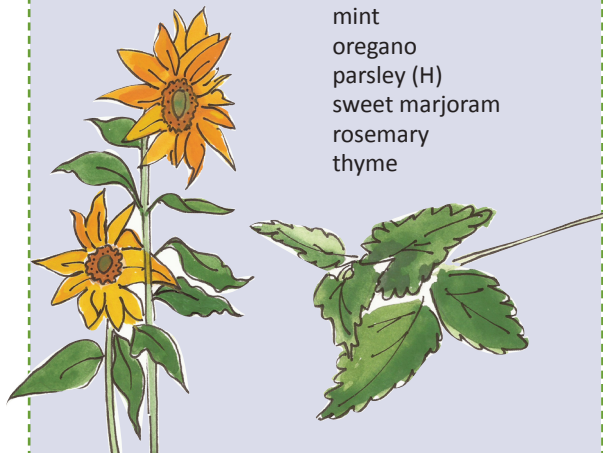
aster (H)
beebalm
beard tongue
bellflower
black-eyed Susan (H)
blazing star
butterfly weed (H)
coneflower (H)
foxglove
golden alexander (H)
goldenrod
hollyhock (H)
Joe Pye weed
larkspur
lead plant (H)
lobelia, great blue
milkweed (H)
monkshood
mint
native rose
white indigo
...and many more
bee-utiful flowers

Good annual pollinator plants include:

alyssum
cleome (H)
cosmos
evening primrose
flax
lantana
Mexican sunflower
morning glory
mullein
poppy
sunflower (H)
snapdragon (H)
tomato
verbena
zinnia

Good herb pollinator plants include:

basil
borage
catnip
comfrey
dill (H)
fennel (H)
hyssop
lavender
mint
oregano
parsley (H)
sweet marjoram
rosemary
thyme



For more pollinator-friendly garden designs go to:
<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/pollinators/>

For further information on bee-friendly gardens and constructing bee nests, check out the fact sheets available from the Xerces Society at www.xerces.org

If you like photography and want to become involved in citizen scientist bee research, become a BeeSpotter at <http://beespotter.mste.illinois.edu/>



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Illustrations by Ann McDowell

Plant a Pollinator Pocket!



Promote Pollinators!

Just imagine...

your dining table without the delectable fruits of apples, blueberries, cherries and peaches or the versatile pumpkin or zucchini. Flowering plants and their associated pollinators are responsible for the vast majority of our food: an estimated one out of every four mouthfuls of food and beverage. Pollinators are also crucial, directly or indirectly, for production of dyes, medicines and some fibers.

Pollinators sustain plant communities by pollinating native plants that provide food, nesting and shelter for wildlife. Bees may be the first pollinators we think of; however, pollinators include butterflies, moths, beetles, hummingbirds, flies and wasps. In North America 99% of pollinators are insects and of those, most are bees.



Unfortunately pollinators are in perilous decline for a myriad of reasons including loss of native areas. We gardeners can be a positive influence on pollinator populations and diversity by planting pollinator-friendly gardens.

A pollinator-friendly garden is also a people-friendly garden as we enjoy many of the same plants. We just need to add a few elements to provide pollinators with food, water, shelter and a nice place to raise the “kids.” Many resources exist to help, and here are a few basics for a pollinator-friendly garden.

- Food for pollinators is generally provided by flower pollen and nectar. However, some pollinating insects need specific plants during certain stages of their life cycle, such as monarch caterpillars and milkweed. These are called “host plants” and are a great addition to pollinating gardens.

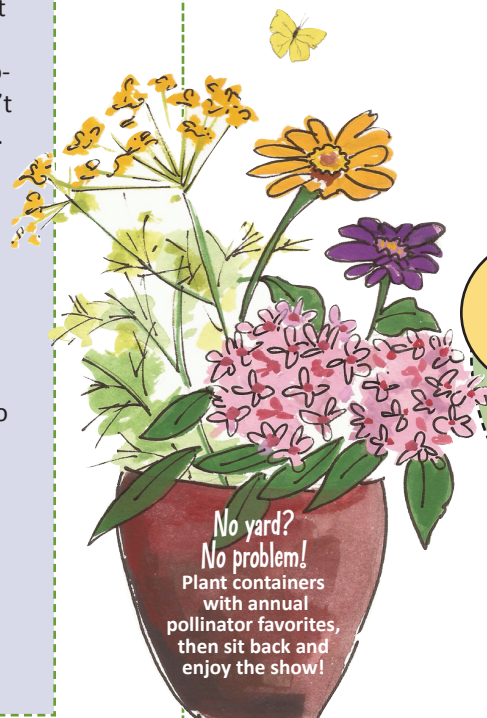
- Opt for native plants whenever possible. Native plants often need less water than non-natives, do well without fertilizer, and attract and support a diverse range of pollinators. Exotic plants, such as butterfly bush, can provide food for butterflies and bees but doesn't sustain the complete life cycle of pollinators. Some exotic plants have become invasive, threatening the biodiversity of both native plants and pollinators.

- Plant clumps of similar flowers and design areas to have a variety of flowers blooming all season.

- Allow spaces between clumps of flowers to provide shelter from wind and cold.

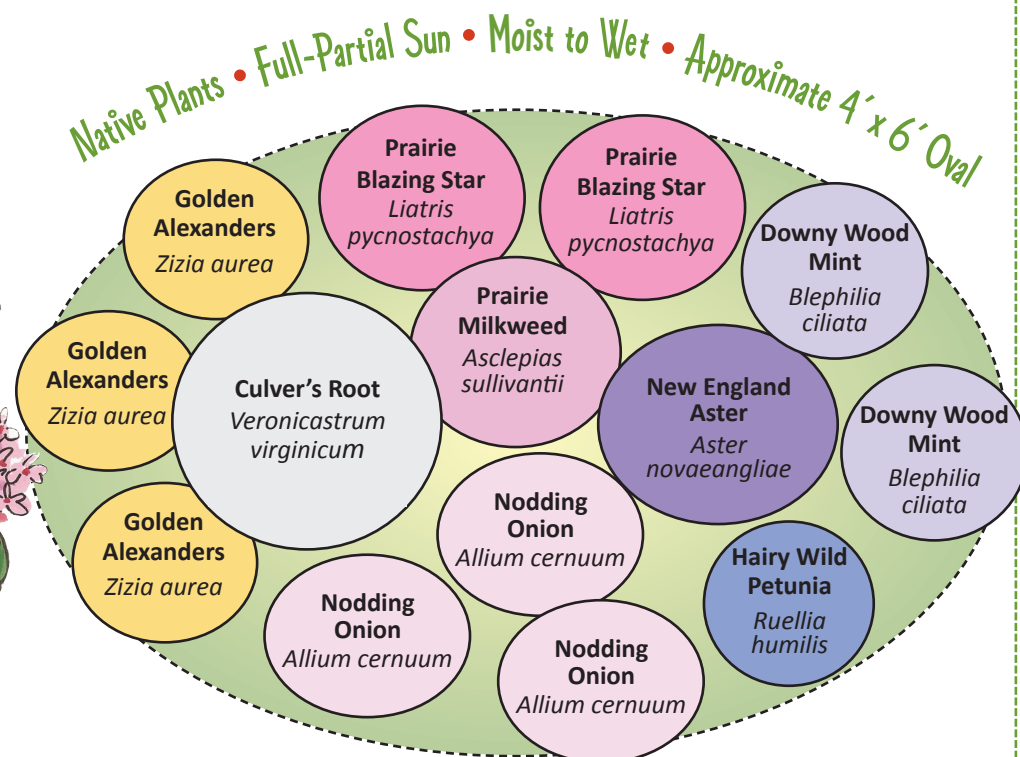
- Avoid using weedcloth barrier and heavy mulch since some pollinators nest in the ground.

- Make your pollinator pocket a pesticide-free zone.



Let's Get Buzzy!

1 The first step is to “Build it and they will come.” Convert a section of your lawn into a Pollinator Pocket! A suggested planting plan for an approximately 4 foot by 6 foot space is shown below. Designs were developed for a variety of sun, shade and moisture conditions (see <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/pollinators/>). Within this brochure is a list of pollinator plants of which most are available at local or native plant nurseries.



2 Leave dead stems over the winter to provide shelter and nesting areas. Consider adding nesting habitats. Native bees make nests in a variety of places such as pieces of wood, cavities or in open ground. Many bees will defend their nests so developing a nesting site in an out-of-the-way place will make everyone happier including the bees.

3 Ready to go a bit farther with your lawn? Set mower blades higher and let clover, dandelions and violets grow and flower.

