

# PLANTING POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY GARDENS



**We can help pollinators by making pollinator-friendly yards.**

- 1. Choose plants that are native to your region.**  
A wide variety of natives will make your garden a favorite destination for pollinators.
- 2. Match the plants to the site conditions.**  
Native plants will flourish without the addition of fertilizers and pesticides.
- 3. Choose nectar and pollen rich flowers with a range of shapes, sizes and colors.**  
Having a variety of plants and flowers will help you attract more pollinators into your garden.
- 4. Purchase "straight natives" when possible.**  
Ideally, look for native nurseries in your area, and buy straight natives to your ecoregion. When not available, natives are typically genetically similar, having very little genetic manipulation (typically height). Cultivars that have multiple petals or a dark or variegated leaf color should be avoided.
- 5. Go for a symphony of blooms.**  
Overlapping bloom times will help ensure that there is always something in your garden to provide nutrition for pollinators.
- 6. Plant in drifts.**  
Pollinators are more likely to navigate plants in gardens that provide larger drifts of color. When you purchase plants, you should get at least 3 or more of one kind.
- 7. Include plants of varying heights.**  
This not only encourages different pollinators, but planted closer together will form a weed barrier far superior to a bed of mulch.
- 8. Save perennial garden cleanup for spring**  
Pollinators overwinter in different life stages: eggs, larvae, pupae, and adults. Some will overwinter in hollow stems, while some will attach to plants or overwinter in the leaf litter. To protect these overwintering pollinators, don't cut down your perennial gardens until spring, and keep beds of leaves intact through the winter.



**Want more information? We post actionable content every week.**



# RESOURCES:

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## **Bee foraging list**

[https://sustainable-farming.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Winfree\\_Williams\\_Native\\_Bees\\_2009.pdf](https://sustainable-farming.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Winfree_Williams_Native_Bees_2009.pdf)

## **Get your Garden “on the map”**

<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>

## **Hedgerow Resources:**

1. [https://ncbg.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/963/2019/04/NC\\_Pollinator-Toolkit.pdf](https://ncbg.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/963/2019/04/NC_Pollinator-Toolkit.pdf)

## **Most visited pollinator plants For Mid Atlantic:**

1. <https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Garden-for-Wildlife/Keystone-Plants/NWF-GFW-keystone-plant-list-ecoregion-8-eastern-temperate-forests.ashx?la=en&hash=1E180E2E5F2B06EB9ADF28882353B3BC7B3B247D>
2. [https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/CentralAppalachianrx7FINAL\\_170624\\_124216\\_1.pdf](https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/CentralAppalachianrx7FINAL_170624_124216_1.pdf)
3. <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/pollinators/ecoregional-planting-guide-cards.htm>

## **Native plant finder specific to your area:**

1. <https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder>
2. <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>
3. <https://www.xerces.org/>

## **Pollinator Design Plans:**

<https://nativegardendesigns.wildones.org/>

## **Wildflowers**

1. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/pollinators/animals/bees.shtml>
2. [https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/CentralAppalachianrx7FINAL\\_170624\\_124216\\_1.pdf](https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/CentralAppalachianrx7FINAL_170624_124216_1.pdf)

## **Join our butterfly course:**



**Link to butterfly course**

