



Photo courtesy of Lance Cheung, USDA.

WHAT IS A POLLINATOR GARDEN?

Many of us enjoy the beauty of a garden full of flowers. For pollinators, though, a garden of native flowering plants is important habitat that provides the resources they need for survival. Even a small garden of native plants is enough to support a host of pollinator species.

The National Pollinator Garden Network is a partnership of conservation organizations, gardening groups, volunteer civic associations, and Federal agencies that work together to inspire people and organizations to create more pollinator habitat. This cooperative team encourages participation in the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge. The challenge is a call to everyone across the United States to preserve and create pollinator habitat where they live, work, and play. The network collects information about pollinator habitat locations across the Nation.

If you have a pollinator garden at your home, school, or local park, you can add that pollinator habitat to the map. If you want to chip in and create new pollinator habitat, the Forest Service has a number of helpful suggestions.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CREATING NEW POLLINATOR HABITAT

-  **Bee native.** Pollinators are best adapted to local, native plants, which often need less water than ornamental plants.
-  **Bee showy.** Flowers should bloom in your garden throughout the growing season.
-  **Bee bountiful.** Plant big patches of each plant species so pollinators can access food resources quickly and without much effort.
-  **Bee patient.** It takes time for native plants to grow and for pollinators to find your garden, especially if you live far from wild lands.
-  **Bee gentle.** Most bees avoid stinging, and usually only sting in self-defense. Male bees do not sting.
-  **Bee chemical free.** Pesticides and herbicides kill pollinators.
-  **Bee sunny.** Provide areas with sunny, bare soil that's dry and well-drained, preferably with south-facing slopes.
-  **Bee homey.** Make small piles of branches to attach chrysalis or cocoons. Provide hollow twigs, rotten logs with wood-boring beetle holes, and bunchgrasses. Leave stumps, old rodent burrows, and fallen plant material for nesting bees. Leave dead or dying trees for woodpeckers.
-  **Bee friendly.** Create pollinator-friendly gardens at home, at schools, and in public parks. Teach people about pollinators and native plants.
-  **Bee aware.** Observe pollinators when you walk in nature. Notice which flowers attract bumble bees or solitary bees, and which attract butterflies.
-  **Bee a little messy.** Most of our native bee species (70 percent) nest underground, so avoid using weed cloth or heavy mulch.
-  **Bee diverse.** Plant a variety of flowering species with abundant pollen and nectar and provide specific plants for feeding butterfly and moth caterpillars.

Refer to "Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden Using Native Plants" (https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/documents/AttractingPollinatorsEasternUS_V1.pdf) to learn more about planting a pollinator garden. Visit the Forest Service "Gardening for Pollinators" website <<https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/gardening.shtml>> for more information about planting for pollinators.