

SUGGESTIONS FOR A POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY GARDEN



1. Provide a flower smorgasbord. Planting a variety of flower types and colours offers support for a variety of pollinators. Plant a majority of native plants.
2. Plant annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees, if possible. Different levels provide for the variety of habitat needed for a balanced ecosystem. Plant for a diversity of pollinators.
3. Favourite pollinator colours are blue, purple, violet, white and yellow.
4. Look for plants in the nursery that pollinators are favouring; incorporate that plant into your garden.
5. Plant for the entire life cycle of pollinators; provide food for each stage of a pollinator's life—nectar producing plants for adults, food plants for caterpillars, plants for chrysalides and areas for insects to over winter.
6. Avoid intensely hybridized plants. Some have no pollen or nectar, while others are too difficult for pollinators to penetrate. Native insects have no historical relationship with non-native plants.
7. Aim for 3-seasons of flowering. Spring and fall blooms are as important as summer bloom for those pollinators that are active early and/or late in the year.
8. Plant in clumps. Pollinators are more attracted to groupings than single plants.
9. Provide water when possible. Insects can drink safely at the wet edges of water running over rocks or from slow drip irrigation.
10. Leave some areas of the ground bare. Most native bees live solitary lives in ground burrows. When an entire garden is mulched, there is nowhere for these solitary creatures to nest, so leave some bare ground in sunny and well-drained areas.
11. Create nesting areas with wood blocks or tubes for native bees that would normally nest in abandoned beetle tunnels

Kitchen remedy for removing unwanted plants

Combine 1 litre cleaning or pickling vinegar, ¼ c salt, 1 tsp dish soap (soap not dish detergent works best). Use spray bottle to apply to leaves & stem.

What we do for bees benefits other wildlife specie

The flowering herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees used by bees also provide nectar for butterflies, moths, beneficial insects and ruby-throated hummingbirds. They produce seeds and fruits that are eaten by many species of birds and mammals. Hedgerows, thickets, set-asides, trees and snags are habitat components that provide cover and nest sites for many wildlife species. Bees, birds, butterflies, dragonflies and all other wildlife benefit from the absence of insecticides and herbicides in their habitats.