

Planting for Pollinators

Pollinators love flowers! As long as you have flowers in your garden, you will likely have pollinators.

According to the US Department of Agriculture's National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), animal pollinators are needed for the reproduction of 90% of flowering plants and one third of human food crops. Pollinators include bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, birds, and bats.

A successful pollinator garden will have a diverse variety of plant species, with an emphasis on native plants. Natives are adapted to our climate and soil, and our native pollinators. Use a wide variety of plants that will bloom from early spring until late fall. Be sure to include some night-blooming flowers to support the moths and bats. And if you want butterflies in your garden, you will have to grow plants for their caterpillars as well. That means there will be leaf damage, so place those plants where they will be less noticeable or be willing to accept the damage.

Also, be sure to include a water source if possible. Even a shallow dish on the ground near the garden is sufficient to allow bees and butterflies a place to drink.

And remember to leave the first dandelions of the season in the ground for the bees! Once other plants have started blooming, go ahead and dig them up. If you must use pesticides, do so sparingly, and at night, when bees are not present.



McCord's Garden Center and Landscaping

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Plants for Pollinators

The following plants are loved by pollinators and are proven to do well here in our area. Although not listed here, there are also numerous annuals, herbs, and vegetables that attract pollinators. Don't feel limited to only this list.

TREES

Apple
Cherry
Crabapple
Locust
Plum
Willow

SHRUBS

Chokecherry
Lilac
Oregon Grape Holly
Potentilla
Flowering Quince
Weigela
Wild Roses
Viburnum

PERENNIALS

Allium
Aster
Ajuga
Bee Balm
Butterfly weed (Milkweed)
Columbine
Catmint
Coneflower
Delphinium
Foxglove
Hollyhock
Hyssop
Lavender
Penstemon
Phlox
Rudbeckia
Sage/Salvia