

BUILDING POLLINATOR GARDENS



**Wisconsin
Partnership Program**
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Where have all the pollinators gone?! The decline in pollinator populations has been attributed to the excessive use of pesticides and conversion of natural landscapes. Without pollinators, the garden fresh food we eat and succulent flowers we enjoy would not be possible! This brief will offer suggestions on how to build a successful pollinator garden that attracts diverse pollinators!

Things to consider when building a pollinator garden

1. Sun

All gardens need plenty of sunshine, but the plants used in most pollinator gardens require full sun for the majority of the day. Pick your location wisely! Consider a large open area with a southern exposure. If you have a shady space, you can still support newly emerged queen bumble bees by planting spring ephemerals that provide early sources of pollen.

2. Diversity

To allow for maximum foraging, plan to have multiple plant species flowering at the same time. Providing food for pollinators all season long requires plants with sequential and overlapping blooming periods. Use native wildflowers if possible! For a list of regional plants visit The Xerces Society at: bit.ly/1NnSqVX



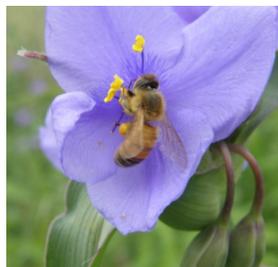
Fly on Dogstink Horn

3. Plant in Patches

You will have a better response from pollinators if you plant patches of same-species plants. The patches will make it easier for the pollinators to find the flowers they prefer and makes pollen collection more efficient. If you plant individual plants next to each other, it will be akin to searching for a needle in a haystack!

4. Size Doesn't Matter

Although larger patches of plants that are planted closely together do very well, you can still have a successful, smaller container garden that attracts pollinators! This is especially true if using species with pollinator preference, for example, mints, asters & legumes.



Honey Bee

5. Seeds vs. Transplants

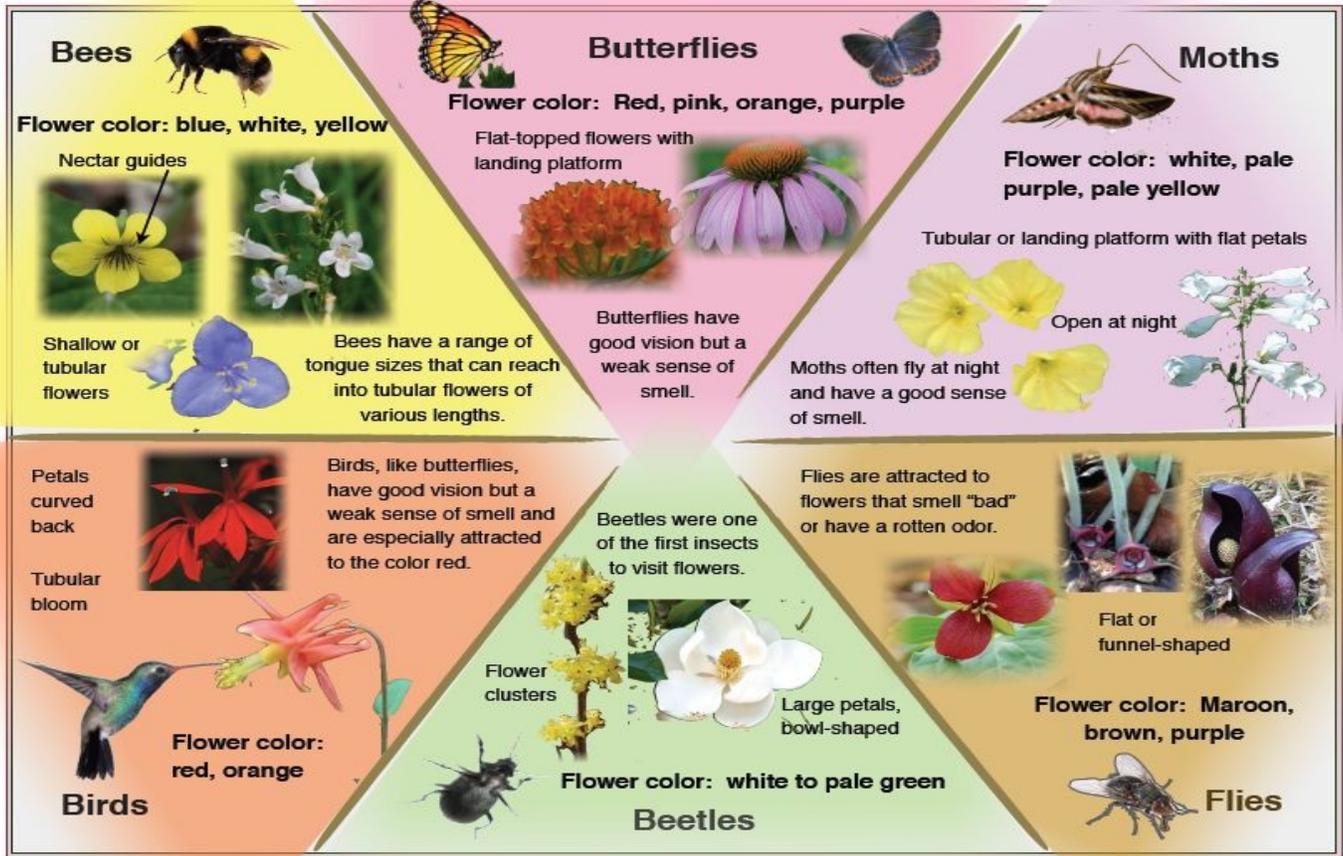
Use of seeds or transplants will be determined by your budget and the size of your project. Seeds are cheaper and work well for larger areas. Transplants will be more expensive, but they will bloom faster and are a great choice for a smaller garden.

6. Shelter

Many native pollinators lay eggs to overwinter in dead plant stems or crevices in hollow logs. You can promote their survival by leaving plant debris on site during the winter months.

Diverse plants, diverse ecosystem!

What characteristics in a plant attract different pollinators? This guide will help you determine what kind of pollinators you can expect to visit your garden due to its plant diversity!



Create a Monarch Waystation!

If you are interested in contributing to the conservation of the Monarch butterfly, you can create & register your pollinator habitat as a Monarch Waystation! Visit: <http://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/certify.html>



Pine River School for Young Learners, Merrill

Resources

The Importance of Pollinators: <http://www.growinggreenerworld.com/the-importance-of-pollinators/>

Pollinator Plants- Great Lakes Region: http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/GreatLakesPlantList_web.pdf

A Flower for Every Pollinator: <http://www.communitygroundworks.org/sites/default/files/>



For more information about the Wisconsin School Garden Initiative, visit us at WISchoolGardens.org

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