

# PLANT FOR SUCCESS!



## Create A Pollinator Garden

**What?** A type of garden used to grow specific nectar and pollen-producing plants to attract animal pollinators.

**Why?** Habitat loss is a major contributor to declining bee and insect populations.

These gardens will attract pollinators that will also visit your vegetable plants.

Pollinator gardens/habitats are beautiful, rewarding, easy to establish and maintain, and support valuable insects.

## What's Your Plan?

**Overall goal:** Provide abundant pollen and nectar sources for as much of the year as possible, nesting sites, and shelter.

**Determine location, including soil type and sunlight.** Your pollinator garden can be as small as a single pot or as large as a meadow. It all depends on your available space and your goals. However, it's important to get a general idea of your soil type and the amount of sunlight the location receives to determine which plants will grow well there.

**Select plants.** Choose plants that have not been treated with pesticides or insecticides. You can use annuals, but perennials will come back each year and don't require a lot of maintenance. Using plants that bloom at different times will help create a bright and colorful garden that supports pollinators through most of the year.

**Seeds vs plants.** This choice depends on budget and time. Seeds are less expensive but take longer to grow and mature. If you use perennials, you will be able to gather seeds after the first season to increase your stock.

**Plant.** Plant and then apply the four Ws: wait, watch, water, and weed. And ENJOY!



Leave plants over winter to provide homes and sources of food for insects and birds during times of scarcity, to reduce waste, and to improve soil fertility.



## Suggested Plants for a Pollinator Garden

**Native plants:** Use locally native plants as often as possible because they are well adapted to the climate, soil, light, and water conditions in our area. Many species feed exclusively on native flowers and need them to survive. The plants listed below are easy to grow and are attractive to multiple types of pollinators.

- Phlox                      Creeping (spring) and tall (late summer) come in many different colors.
- Coneflower              Summer flowering; purple variety is best for attracting pollinators.
- Liatris                      Tall spikes of fluffy purple or white flowers add interest to the garden.
- Aster                        Provides late season forage; some solitary bees specialize on plants in the aster family.
- Goldenrod                Provides late season forage for many pollinators, often plants itself.
- Milkweed                 Multiple varieties grow in PA that provide pollen and nectar for many pollinators; however, the leaves provide food for Monarch caterpillars (host plant).
- Red and Blue Lobelia    Tall spikes of multiple flowers. Hummingbirds love the red variety (Cardinal Flower). Easy to collect seeds and start new plants in spring.
- Perennial sunflower    Covered in multiple small yellow flowers; grows very large so good for back of garden.
- Verbena bonariensis    Not native but incredibly attractive to pollinators, including solitary bees; easy to start from seed.

**Many more native perennials that are attractive to pollinators are listed on the Penn State website.**