



PLANT FOR SUCCESS!

Encourage Pollinators

- What? Make your garden attractive for pollinating insects.
- Why? Most plants depend on pollinators to move pollen from one plant to another. Without pollination, fruit and vegetables cannot exist.
- Why? One of every three bites of food we eat is a food that has been pollinated by insects.
- Important? Pollinators are essential for functioning ecosystems.



Common Pollinators in Pennsylvania

Bees: Most bees in the state are solitary bees -- more effective pollinators than honey and bumble bees!

Flies: Flies are the second most important pollinators in PA.

Butterflies and Moths: Most recognizable pollinators, including Monarchs and Swallowtails.

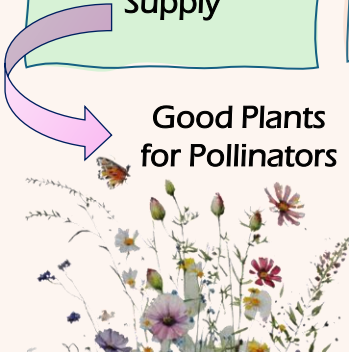
Wasps: Adult wasps live on pollen and nectar; they provide their larvae with insect prey, often garden pests, so they are doubly beneficial. Solitary wasps are rarely aggressive.

Beetles: The red milkweed beetle, locust borer, and Pennsylvania leatherwing are examples.

Hummingbirds: Attracted to tubular flowers and the color red; cardinal flower is a favorite.

If You Build It, They Will Come!

Plant Natives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some insects are specialists; they survive only on the nectar and pollen from one plant or those from a certain plant family. The larvae of some insects survive by eating only a certain plant or those from a certain plant family; these are called "host plants". Native insects are often more attracted to native plants.
Provide Water Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honey bees drink water and use it to regulate the temperature of the hive, feed young bees, and dilute stored honey. Many other insects also need water to stay hydrated.
Provide Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native plants are often preferred as shelter and nesting sites. Habitat can provide cover and safety. Delay garden clean-up until spring to protect insects that overwinter in leaf debris and plant stems.
Limit Use of Pesticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many pesticides are extremely toxic to honey bees and other beneficial insects. Use less toxic pesticides that rapidly degrade. Encourage predatory insects and remove pests by hand.
Provide a Continuous Food Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grow plants that flower in early spring: about 33% of bees in PA emerge between March and April and are critical for pollination of native plants and tree fruit crops. Provide fall flowering plants for late season foraging: help honey bee colonies store enough honey to survive through the winter months and feed female solitary bees before they overwinter in plant stems, wood, or under stones.



Good Plants for Pollinators

Early Season	Mid-Season	Late Season
• False indigo	• Anise hyssop	• Asters
• Wild geranium	• Joe Pye weed	• Goldenrod
• Virginia bluebells	• Blazing star	• Snakeroot
• Phlox	• Cardinal flower	• Boneset
• Foam flower	• Obedient plant	• Turtlehead
• Golden Alexander	• Milkweed	