

We can all agree that fruit and veges are great. But the trees don't grow fruit all on their own.

Plants need pollen – packages of information to help them make seeds.

But the pollen can rarely get to plants on their own. And that's where pollinators come in.

They're the 'messengers' that carry that pollen from one plant to its neighbour. Plants rely on them to produce fruit, make seeds, and multiply.

In New Zealand, we have a huge variety of native pollinators. Bees, birds, butterflies - even bats

All with a vital role in pollinating our native plants.

But in our cities, they're having a hard time. Their path used to look like this....

But now it looks like this.

Our 'concrete jungles' of roads and houses are hard for pollinators to get through. There's not enough food or shelter or places to rest.

And as a result, they can't get through.

The technical term for this is 'fragmentation' (or more specifically, 'habitat isolation') and it's a big issue. Without this exchanging of pollen between these neighbours, the plants become less adaptable to change.

And pollinators suffer too – if they can't get to other areas, they become disconnected as well.

...But it doesn't have to be this way. There's no longer a direct path for them, but you can help create stepping stones to get them through.

All it takes is a little bit of food here and there, a tree or a bush for shelter, or a bit of leaf litter to spend the winter	
If you're extra keen, consider planting something for our more specialised pollinators...	
Pūriri or mahoe trees for our puriri moth.	Or nettle for our rare red admiral butterflies
<p>As a bonus, you'll get to see the pollinators as they go along their journey - or maybe they'll even stick around for you to enjoy!</p> <p>??? Cool ending</p>	

If you're interested in helping our pollinators on their journey, be sure to check out our website for a full list of native species ([www.definitelyarealwebsite.govt.nz](http://www.definitelyarealwebsite.govt.nz))