

Creating a Pollinator Garden

Why Pollinators Matter

Pollinators - bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and others - are essential for reproducing many food crops and wildflowers. Their populations are declining due to habitat loss and pesticide use. A pollinator garden helps by providing food and shelter.

Plant Selection

Choose native plants when possible, as they've co-evolved with local pollinators. Include flowers with different shapes to serve different pollinators: tubular flowers for hummingbirds, flat landing pads for butterflies, and small clustered flowers for bees.

Design Tips

Plant in groups - pollinators find larger patches of flowers more easily than scattered single plants. Plan for continuous bloom from early spring through late fall. Include larval host plants for butterflies. Leave some bare ground for ground-nesting bees.

Maintenance

Avoid pesticides, which harm pollinators along with pests. Leave some fallen leaves and dead stems for overwintering insects. Provide a shallow water source with pebbles for perching. Your garden will reward you with increased wildlife activity and better fruit and vegetable yields.