

Pollinator Garden



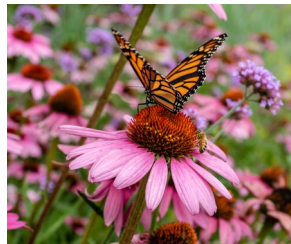
What's a Pollinator Garden?

Pollinator gardens provide nectar and pollen to insects, birds, small mammals, and other pollinators. These gardens feed pollinators who in turn help plants reproduce. There are over 350,000 known pollinator species in the world contributing billions to the global economy. Pollinator gardens also help prevent erosion, filter water, increase home values, and improve crop yields!



Installation

- 1. Prepare the area** by clearing an area that receives partial to full sun. Determine if the soil is more sandy and well-draining or more clay-like and wet (use the soil drainage factsheet if you aren't sure).
- 2. Choose native perennials, shrubs, and trees** that grow well in full or partial sun, the garden's soil type, and have flowers that are diverse in shape, size, color, and blooming season to benefit a wider variety of pollinators. Buy seedlings that haven't been treated with pesticides from a local nursery or sow organic heirloom seeds in the fall.
- 3. Group plants of the same species together** when planting to help pollinators find them. Place plants close together to reduce weeds and the need for lots of mulch. Some pollinator plants take a few years before they begin to flower.



Maintenance

Year One: Water deeply each week, allowing water to reach the root ball. Deadhead flowers and rake leaves in late spring to provide overwintering habitat and food.

After One Year: Only water if there's a lack of normal rainfall. Replenish mulch periodically to stunt weed growth. Replace and/or divide plants if needed. Deadhead flowers and rake leaves in late spring to provide overwintering habitat and food.

Additional Features

- Support monarch and spicebush swallowtail butterflies by growing caterpillar food sources such as milkweed, spicebush, and sassafras. Caterpillars will eat the leaves of these plants so place them in your gardens where the holes in the leaves won't bother you.
- Provide access to water by adding a dripline hose, bird bath, or other water feature.
- Create pollinator habitat by adding logs, branches, and leaves.

Threats to Pollinators

Pollinator populations are on the decline due to habitat loss, climate change, invasive species and pesticide use. Avoid using pesticides in your yard to protect visiting pollinators.