

# I WANT TO START A POLLINATOR GARDEN:

A **pollinator garden** provides habitat for and attracts pollen-spreading species. Pollinators make native habitats and food growth possible; therefore pollinator gardens have an essential function to our planet.

## *Resources for Finding and Planting Pollinator Plants*

- 🐞 This **How to Plant A Pollinator Garden** (<http://www.fws.gov/pollinators/PollinatorPages/YourHelp.html#garden>) guide provides very practical methods on building and maintaining a pollinator garden.
- 🐞 **Pollinator Partnership** (<http://www.pollinator.org/>) has several resources on pollinators in general, but most notable is their guide for selecting pollinator plants based on your ecoregion (see here <http://www.pollinator.org/guides.htm>).
- 🐞 **Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden Using Native Plants** (<http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/documents/AttractingPollinatorsV5.pdf>) has great descriptions that provide context on the overall importance of pollinator gardens and how they function.
- 🐞 **Insects in the Garden** (<http://blogs.cornell.edu/horticulture/insects/>) emphasizes how important pollinators, and insects in general, are to a garden.
- 🐞 **Beneficial Insects, Spiders, and Mites in Your Garden: Who they are and how to get them to stay (Home Garden Series)** (<https://pubs.wsu.edu/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=15656&ReturnTo=6>) is a more detailed description of the importance of insects in a garden.
- 🐞 **The Million Pollinator Garden Challenge** (<http://millionpollinatorgardens.org/>) has resources that link pollinators to the food we eat. It also discusses the function of a pollinator garden and it even has a pollinator garden registry for those interested in taking the challenge.
- 🐞 **Monarch Watch** (<http://www.monarchwatch.org/>) is a teacher-network for tracking Monarch Butterfly migration that also sells milkweed.



- 🐞 **Organization for Bat Conservation** (<https://batconservation.org/>) has a bat garden resource guide as well as materials on building a bat house.
- 🐞 **Creating a Bird-Friendly Habitat** (<http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife/Gardening-Tips/How-to-Attract-Birds-to-Your-Garden.aspx>) provides a short and simple guide on attracting bird pollinators.

## *Nature Works Everywhere Lessons for a Pollinator Garden*

- 🐞 **Bee Detective - Discover the Culprit Behind Declining Bee Populations**  
<https://www.natureworkseverywhere.org/resources/527be724c4b7765f18581cb6/>  
In this lesson, students will study the loss of bees due to colony collapse disorder (CCD). Since bees provide vital benefits to people, including crop pollination, and products such as honey and beeswax, the loss of bee colonies through CCD is a serious concern.
- 🐞 **Pollinators - Putting Food on the Table**  
<https://vimeo.com/77811127>  
This video illustrates the incredible importance of pollinators to agriculture and landscapes. In the video, students build a pollinator garden and learn how little of their picnic lunch would be possible without pollinators.
- 🐞 **Gardens Activity Guide: Habitat**  
<https://www.natureworkseverywhere.org/resources/535ac920c4b7761540c469f2/>  
In this activity, students conduct a census to identify species in the garden habitat and observe their interactions with one another and their environment, focusing on the role of pollinators. Through observation and data collection, students will determine which species inhabit the garden, investigate relationships between them, and identify factors that may affect them. By tracking species over a period of time, students may discover patterns in biodiversity related to changes in the garden habitat.