Pollinators Need Your Help!

Use this guide to create a welcoming pollinator habitat around your home:

- Note the plants along the Buzzline that catch your eye
- Record which species are suited for your local environment
- Review the tips for creating pollinator-friendly habitats
- Explore our resources to find more pollinator-friendly plants

Photo: Dawn Dailey O'Brien

The Importance of Pollinators

Did you know that 1 in 3 bites of food are produced by pollinators? Or that pollinators contribute more than 24 billion dollars to the US economy?

Plants rely on pollinators to carry pollen to female flowers for producing fruit and seeds. Humans, in turn, rely on plants for much of our food and livelihood.
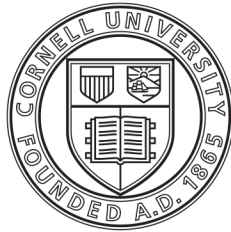
Maintaining diverse populations of pollinators adds resilience to ecosystems, and helps protect our way of life from sudden ecological

More plants:

There are hundreds of native plants ideal to attract and support pollinators.

xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/plant-lists
This website provides information about pollinator plants suitable to where you live. It is important to purchase plants from nurseries that carry native plants in your area.

The **Botanic Buzzline** was created by Cornell University students Lev Krasnovsky, Lisa Yu, Diego Burga, and Samantha Spicka

Botanic Buzzline

Guide to Creating Pollinator Habitats

CORNELL BOTANIC GARDENS

Botanic Buzzline Plant List:

anise hyssop (*Agastache* 'Blue Fortune')

tall thimbleweed (*Anemone virginiana*)

columbine (*Aquilegia canandensis*)

swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

aromatic aster (*Aster oblongifolius* 'Raydon's Favorite')

blue wild indigo (*Baptisia australis*)

downy woodmint (*Blephilia ciliata*)

tall bellflower (*Campanula americana*)

flattop aster (*Doellingeria umbellata*)

coneflower (*Echinacea* 'Mellow Yellows')

Canada wild rye (*Elymus canandensis*)

bottlebrush grass (*Elymus hystrix*)

boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)

sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*)

oxeye sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)

blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*)

blazing star (*Liatris spicata*)

cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)

wild blue lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)

Allegheny monkey flower (*Mimulus ringens*)

wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)

golden ragwort (*Packera aurea*)

foxglove (*Penstemon digitalis*)

Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium* sp.)

Virginia mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*)

Carolina rose (*Rosa carolina*)

prairie rose (*Rosa setigera*)

black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*)

Calico aster (*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*)

New England aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)

arrow leaf aster (*Symphyotrichum urophyllum*)

blue vervain (*Verbena hastata*)

culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)

violet (*Viola* sp.)

golden alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)

Creating Pollinator Habitat

One of the best ways to help pollinators thrive is by planting flowers. Here are some tips for getting started:

1.   Provide a variety of flower shapes and sizes to accommodate the diverse forms of pollinators

2.   Plan for at least one plant to be in bloom during each month of the growing season

3.   Choose native species whenever possible

4.   Leave areas with leaf litter and dead branches to provide overwintering sites for pollinators

5.   Make sure you or your lawn care company aren't using neonicotinoid pesticides--consider pollinator friendly alternatives if you are

6.   Arrange plants in clusters so that pollinators have an easier time finding them

Starting Seeds at Home

Some flower seeds are hardy enough to sow outdoors in the Fall, but others need more care. Here are 3 recommendations for starting flowers at home:

1. Leave room for roots! The further down seedling roots can grow, the better they will be at finding water during dry times.

2. Grow seedlings close to, and directly under a source of light to prevent them getting "leggy."

3. Minimize disruptions to root structures. If possible, start seedlings in biodegradable pots that can be planted with the flower itself.

Photo: Clark West

The total population of Monarch butterflies is less than 3% of what it was in the 1980s. To help save this beautiful butterfly and others like it, research and plant the flowers on which your local butterflies lay their larvae.