

POLLINATORS

Pollinators are species, such as bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, moths, and bats, that spread pollen from plant to plant. They rely on plants for food, such as pollen, nectar, fruits, nuts, and seeds. In harvesting their food, these species facilitate pollination, which fertilizes plants structures, allows plants to produce fruit and vegetables, and reproduce. The process of pollination is vital to the proper functioning of all food and ecosystems.

POSSIBLE PLANTINGS

Planting a variety of flowers that bloom at different points in the season helps extend pollinators' food source. Here are examples of plants that you can cultivate so that your garden can bloom throughout the season and support pollinators :

EARLY SEASON

- Columbine (*aquilegia canadensis*)
 - attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, and moths
- Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum* spp.)
 - attracts bees, butterflies, beetles, and wasps
- Wild Lupine (*Lupinus Perennis*)
 - attracts bees, butterflies, and moths
 - host plant for Karner Blue and Persius Duskywing caterpillars, which become the Karner Blue and Persius Duskywing butterflies respectively.

MID-SEASON

- Anise Hyssop (*agastache foeniculum*)
 - attracts parasitic wasps, which eats garden pests
- Milkweeds (*asclepias* spp.)
 - host plant for monarch butterflies
- Joe Pye Weed (*eutrochium* spp.)
 - attractive to butterflies, such as swallowtails

LATE SEASON

- Asters (*Symphyotrichum* and *Eurybia*)
 - attracts bees, butterflies and moths
- Goldenrods (*Solidago* and *Euthamia* spp.)
 - attracts bees, butterflies and birds



BEST PRACTICES

- **NATIVE PLANTS:** Use native plants, which have co-evolved with other native plants and animals. Native plants are integrated into the local food webs and are more adapted to the local climate. This means they provide more food, are more resilient, and require less maintenance than species that were introduced to the area.
- **FLOWER DIVERSITY:** Plant a variety of species that bloom at different points in the growing season to provide substantial food sources for pollinators. Plants that have different flower sizes, shapes, and colors can attract species with different needs and are more likely to resist pests and disease.
- **HABITAT:** Include plants and other environmental features to provide pollinators with safe places to rest, reproduce, and take cover from bad weather. Tall grasses, leaf litter, woody perennials, logs, bee and bird boxes, and healthy loose soil all create shelter for different types of pollinators. Spots with shallow pools of water provide pollinators with safe spaces to hydrate.



Illustrations by Olivia Golden

MAINTENANCE TIPS

- Water plants consistently during the first growing season
- Weed your plot consistently for the first two years to help native plants outcompete weeds
- Mulch perennials to suppress weeds and add organic matter to your soils
- Leave some decaying plant matter and leaf cover in place to provide pollinators with a place to overwinter
- Minimize usage of pesticides and herbicides as they often kill both harmful and beneficial species



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Sources: NYC Parks GreenThumb, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Butterfly Project NYC, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, United States Department of Agriculture NRCS

