

Pollinators: What You Can Do To Help

Plant a Pollinator Garden

Pollinating species are much more likely to thrive with a diversity of nectar and pollen sources. When planting a garden and choosing plants, consider the following to promote pollinators:

- Choose plants that flower at different times of the year. This will provide nectar and pollen sources throughout the growing season.
- Plant a wide variety of colors and shapes; this will attract more diverse pollinator species.



- Plant in clumps to attract pollinators.
- Whenever possible, chose native plants. Native plants will attract more native pollinators, in addition to serving as a larval host plant for some pollinator species.

Minimize Your Environmental Impact

- Buy locally produced or organic food.
- Instead of driving, walk, cycle, or use public transit.
- *Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle!*



Avoid or Limit Pesticide Use

Pesticides are harmful to pollinators, as well as to target pests. If you have pests in your garden, consider the following:

- Remove individual pests by hand, if possible.
- Encourage native predators with a diverse garden habitat.
- Chose a pesticide that is the least toxic to non-targeted species, does not persist on vegetation, and apply it in the evening when the majority of pollinators are least active.
- Leave buffer zones between areas of pesticide application and sensitive species, sensitive habitats, water, and potential nectar sources.
- Avoid applying pesticides while crops or wildflowers adjacent to, or near fields, are in bloom.
- Use ground equipment instead of an aerial spray to apply pesticides. This will reduce the amount of drift.
- Expect and accept a little pest activity.



For more information, please visit:
<http://www.dodpollinatorworkshop.com/>

Provide Nesting Sites

Not all pollinators require the same needs for nesting sites. Examples of nesting sites include:

- **Bee Nesting Blocks.** Solitary bee species use small cavities in wood. By drilling holes, using several different diameters, in a block of preservative-free wood, different species are provided a nesting site.
- Leave a dead tree or limb undisturbed to provide a natural nesting habitat for a wide variety of pollinators (be sure leaving the dead wood won't be a safety hazard).
- **Ground Nesting Sites.** Maintain a small, undisturbed patch of bare ground, this will provide a nesting habitat for ground-nesting bees. If the patch faces south, more sun will be available during the day, which will be more enticing to pollinator species.



Volunteers Needed — Become a Volunteer

The USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN) is launching a national program to promote observations of flowering, fruiting, and other seasonal events, which will be used to track the effects of climate change on the Earth's life-support systems. Phenology is the study of the seasonal cycles of plants and animals, such as plants sprouting, flowering, and fruiting, and animals reproducing, migrating, and hibernating. The program provides user friendly methods to track the life cycles of nearly 200 species of plants!



- **Who:** Everyone who is interested in volunteering and learning about climate change science.
- **What:** Changes in plant and animal seasonal patterns can be caused by climate change, can significantly affect human economies and health, and can have negative impacts on many species. For example, some wildflowers near Walden Pond have already disappeared.
- **Why:** By volunteering and tracking observations, more data is available to scientists and researchers, allowing them to better predict the effects of global climate change on plants, animals, and ecosystems. The data collected also will help resource managers predict wildfires and pollen production, detect and control invasive species, monitor droughts, and assess the vulnerability of plant and animal species to climate change.
- **When:** No time like the present!
- **Where:** <http://www.usanpn.org/>

