



# Why are Pollinators Important?

## Bees, Butterflies and Bats... Oh My!

Between 75-95% of all flowering plants on Earth need pollinators to produce their fruits. Therefore, one third of the food you eat exists because of pollinators. Both large scale and the backyard gardener rely on flying friends to help produce the harvest we depend on each year.

With pollinator numbers declining, it's time to do our part to help their numbers rebound.

### What can we do?

- Create a garden of diversity. Using annuals, perennials and shrubs together to create an abundant menu. Use many types of colors and multi season plants so there's always something blooming from early spring to frost.
- Provide fresh, clean water in birdbaths, puddles or natural waterways. Be sure to refresh standing water every 2 to 3 days to prevent mosquito spawning.
- Provide nesting sites with appropriate nesting plants or protected areas of your garden.
- Reduce pesticide use or its effects by using targeted pest products instead of a broad spectrum insecticide. Choose the least toxic option. Spray at night or when flowers aren't present.
- Conserve natural habitats. Let grassy meadows grow and wet marshy areas thrive. Join in community efforts to protect wildlife habitats.

### Best Pollinators for Bees and Butterflies:

Fun Facts: Bees prefer blue, violet, yellow and white flowers and butterflies prefer flat yellow, pink and purple flowers.

#### Perennials:

- |                                     |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Achillea – Yarrow                 | • Eupatorium – Joe Pye Weed   | • Perovskia – Russian Sage     |
| • Asclepias – Butterfly Weed        | • Gaillardia – Blanket Flower | • Rudbeckia – Black Eyed Susan |
| • Clematis – Clematis               | • Hellebores – Lenten Rose    | • Salvia – Sage                |
| • Coreopsis – Tickseed              | • Liatris – Gayfeather        | • Scabiosa – Pincushion Flower |
| • Dianthus Barbatus – Sweet William | • Monarda – Bee Balm          | • Sedums – Stone Crop          |
| • Digitalis – Foxglove              | • Nepeta – Catmint            | • Solidago – Goldenrod         |
| • Echinacea – Coneflower            | • Papaver – Poppies           | • Verbena – Verbena            |
| • Echinops – Globe Thistle          | • Penstemon – Beardtongue     |                                |



## Pollinators for Butterflies and Bees Continued...

### Annuals and Herbs:

- Ageratum
- Aster
- Basil
- Cosmos
- Hebe
- Lantana
- Marigolds
- Mint
- Nicotiana
- Pentas
- Rosemary
- Sunflowers
- Thyme
- Vinca
- Zinnias

### Trees and Shrubs:

- Buddleia – Butterfly Bush
- Caprifoliaceae – Spicebush
- Cercis canadensis – Redbud
- Clethra – Summersweet
- Itea – Sweetspire
- Magnolia – Magnolia
- Salix – Pussy Willow
- Weigela – Weigela
- Vaccinium – Blueberry Bushes (any berry bushes)

## Best Pollinators for Bats: Attracted to light colored, night blooming flowers.

### Perennials:

- Buddleia – Butterfly Bush
- Lonicera – Honeysuckle
- Oenothera - Evening Primrose
- Phlox - Phlox
- Salvia - Salvia
- Saponaria - Soapwort
- Sedum - Stonecrop
- Solidago – Goldenrod
- Yucca – Yucca

### Annuals and Herbs:

- Asters
- Chives
- Cleome
- Heliotrope
- Lavender
- Lemon Balm
- Marjoram
- Mint
- Moon flower
- Nicotiana
- Rosemary

### More Fun Facts:

- North America has more than 4,000 species of bees.
- Hundreds of species of bees in MD alone!
- Bats are our night time pollinators and our best defense against the West Nile and Zika virus as well as Dengue Fever.
- Almost 6 million bats have died due to disease in the U.S. in the past 6 years, prompting them to possibly be added to the endangered species list.

