



PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS

When selecting plants for your pollinators keep the following in mind:

- **Choose plants native to your region.** Native plants have been proven to be four times more attractive to pollinators than non-natives, so your first choice should be plants native to our region.
- **Choose flowers with a range of shapes, and colors** A variety of flower shapes and colors will provide food for different kinds of pollinators.
- **Don't forget host plants for the larval stages.** The caterpillars of butterflies and moths feed on the leaves of very specific plants. Don't forget to include these host plants in your garden.
- **Plant in drifts.** Pollinators are more likely to find plants in gardens that provide larger drifts of color. When you purchase plants, purchase 3 or more and plant them together.
- **Provide a succession of bloom.** Pollinators need nectar and pollen sources throughout the season so choose a variety of plants that will provide a succession of bloom from early spring through fall.
- **Avoid modern hybrids.** Many garden plants have been manipulated for larger blooms and a show of color and have lost their ability to produce nectar. When buying annuals, purchase older heirloom varieties.
- **Don't forget trees and shrubs.** Many woody plants provide early season nectar for pollinators and are the primary host plants for many moths and butterflies. Think of your entire yard as pollinator habitat.

NATIVE PERENNIALS FOR A SUNNY POLLINATOR GARDEN

| PLANT NAME | COMMON NAME | COLOR | SOIL DRAINAGE | BLOOM TIME |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Agastache foeniculum</i> | Anise Hyssop | Lavender | Well drained to dry | Summer to late summer |
| <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> | Columbine | Red | Well drained | Late spring |
| <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> | Swamp Milkweed | Purple | Moist to wet | Mid-summer |
| <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> | Butterfly Weed | Orange | Well drained to dry | Summer |
| <i>Eupatorium dubium</i> | Coastal Plain Joe Pye | Mauve | Moist to wet | Late Summer |
| <i>Eupatorium hyssopifolium</i> | Thoroughwort | White | Dry | Late Summer |
| <i>Helianthus spp</i> | Sunflowers | Yellow | Moist to dry | Summer |
| <i>Helenium autumnale</i> | Sneezeweed | Yellow | Moist to wet | Late Summer |
| <i>Liatris spicata</i> | Marsh Blazing Star | Purple | Moist to wet | Summer |
| <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> | Cardinal Flower | Red | Moist to wet | Late Summer |
| <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> | Great Blue Lobelia | Blue | Moist to wet | Late Summer |
| <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> | Wild Bergamot | Lavender | Moist | Summer |
| <i>Monarda didyma</i> | Oswego Tea | Red | Moist | Summer |
| <i>Penstemon digitalis</i> | Foxglove Beardtongue | White | Moist | Spring |
| <i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i> | Broad-leaved Mountain Mint | Whitish green | Moist | Mid-Late Summer |
| <i>Solidago nemoralis</i> | Gray Goldenrod | Yellow | Moist to dry | Fall |
| <i>Symphyotrichum laeve</i> | Smooth Aster | Purple | Moist to dry | Fall |
| <i>Veronicastrum virginicus</i> | Culver's Root | White | Moist | Mid-Late Summer |
| <i>Zizia aurea</i> | Golden Alexanders | Yellow | Moist to wet | Spring |

NATIVE PERENNIALS FOR A SHADY POLLINATOR GARDEN

| PLANT NAME | COMMON NAME | COLOR | SOIL DRAINAGE | BLOOM TIME |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> | Columbine | Red | Well drained to dry | Late spring |
| <i>Arisaema triphyllum</i> | Jack-in-the Pulpit | Green and Brown | Moist | Spring |
| <i>Eurybia divaricata</i> | White Wood Aster | White | Moist to dry | Fall |
| <i>Phlox divaricata</i> | Wild Blue Phlox | Lavender | Moist | Spring |
| <i>Phlox stolonifera</i> | Creeping Phlox | Lavender | Moist | Spring |
| <i>Solidago caesia</i> | Blue Wreath Goldenrod | Yellow | Moist to dry | Fall |
| <i>Spigelia marilandica</i> | Indian Pink | Red | Moist | Summer |
| <i>Tiarella cordifolia</i> | Foamflower | White | Average | Spring |
| <i>Viola canadensis</i> | Canada Violet | White | Moist | Spring to early summer |

SHRUBS FOR A POLLINATOR GARDEN

| PLANT NAME | COMMON NAME | COLOR | SOIL DRAINAGE | BLOOM TIME |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|
| <i>Ceanothus americanus</i> | New Jersey Tea | White | Dry, Well drained | Summer |
| <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> | Buttonbush | White | Wet to average | Summer |
| <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> | Summersweet | White | Moist to average | Summer |
| <i>Itea virginica</i> | Virginia Sweetspire | White | Wet to dry | Summer |
| <i>Salix discolor</i> | Pussy Willow | Green, yellow | Medium to wet | Spring |

TREES FOR POLLINATORS

| PLANT NAME | COMMON NAME | SOIL DRAINAGE | BLOOM TIME |
|---------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Acer rubrum</i> | Red Maple | Wet to dry | Early spring |
| <i>Amelanchier laevis</i> | Serviceberry | Average to dry | Spring |
| <i>Cercis canadensis</i> | Redbud | Average | Spring |

Many of the above native plants can be found in garden centers. Others are readily available at native plant nurseries or native plant sales sponsored by local conservation organizations.

MORE PERENNIALS & ANNUALS TO ATTRACT POLLINATORS

| PLANT NAME | COMMON NAME | | PLANT NAME | COMMON NAME |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|-------------|
| <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> | Purple cone flower | | <i>Petrosillum</i> | Parsley |
| <i>Lavendula</i> | English lavender | | <i>Rosmarinus</i> | Rosemary |
| <i>Ocimum</i> | Basil | | <i>Thymus</i> | Thyme |
| <i>Origanum</i> | Marjoram | | <i>Zinnia</i> | Zinnia |
| <i>Origanum</i> | Oregano | | <i>Thymus</i> | Thyme |

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Penn State **Extension**

Bees, Bugs, Blooms

Pollinator Plant Trial at Penn State Southeast Agricultural Research and Extension Center

1446 Auction Road, Manheim, PA 17545

Goals of trial: To compare native plant species and cultivars for their attractiveness to pollinators and their suitability for home and/or farm landscapes

Top Plant Picks for Pollinators * indicates plant that attracts predators/parasites of brown Marmorated stink bug.

**Pycnanthemum muticum* – Clustered Mountain Mint

Eupatoriadelphus dubius - Coastal Plain Joe Pye

Eupatoriadelphus maculatus 'Bartered Bride' –Bartered Bride Joe Pye

Conoclinium coelestinum - Mistflower

**Solidago nemoralis* - Gray Goldenrod

Asclepias incarnata – Swamp Milkweed

**Eupatorium hyssopifolium* – Thoroughwort

**Eupatorium perfoliatum* - Boneset

Eryngium yuccifolium – Rattlesnake Master

Coreopsis rosea – Pink Tickseed

Monarda punctata – Spotted Horsemint

Penstemon calycosus - Calico Penstemon

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Liatris spicata – Blazing Star

Liatris microcephala – Dwarf Blazing Star

Veronicastrum virginicum – Culver's Root

Helianthus 'Lemon Queen' - Lemon Queen Sunflower

Coreopsis verticillata – Tickseed

Cultivar Comparison

| Comparing <i>Monarda didyma</i> (Bee Balm) and Cultivars | | |
|--|--|---|
| Attracted fewest pollinators | | Attracted the most pollinators |
| <i>Monarda didyma</i> 'Jacob Cline' | <i>Monarda didyma</i> straight species | Monarda x'Peters Fancy Fuschia' |
| | | |
| Comparing <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> (Wild Bergamot) and cultivar | | |
| Attracted fewest pollinators | | Attracted the most pollinators |
| <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> 'Claire Grace' | | * <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> straight species |
| | | |
| Comparing <i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i> (New England Aster) and cultivar | | |
| Attracted fewest pollinators | | Attracted the most pollinators |
| <i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i> 'Purple Dome' | | <i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i> |

Plant plugs for the trial purchased from:

New Moon Nursery, 975 Barretts Run Rd. Bridgeton, NJ 08302

North Creek Nurseries, 388 North Creek Road, Landenberg, PA 19350

Websites - more about pollinator friendly plants

Ecoregion planting guides, Pollinator Partnership <http://www.pollinator.org/guides.htm>

NRCS plants for pollinators in the Northeast

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/nypmctn11164.pdf