

Planting For *Native Pollinators*

What is a pollinator?

Pollinators are animals, like birds, bats, bees, butterflies, and beetles, that travel from plant to plant carrying pollen on their bodies. By moving the pollen, these animals help plants reproduce.

Approximately 75% to 95% of all flowering plants on Earth need help with pollination – they need pollinators.

Pollinators are essential to ecosystem health and agricultural systems but they are facing growing threats.

How can we help native pollinators?

We can support our native pollinators by making the native plants they rely on more easily available. Whether you have a backyard or a patio, you can turn your outdoor space into a pollinator's paradise by following these easy steps:

- Learn more about native pollinators and the plants they use as sources of nectar or to lay their eggs.
- Plant native trees, shrubs and grasses. Incorporating native plants is key to making native pollinators more abundant.
- Reduce or eliminate the impact of pesticides. When you attract butterflies to your garden by planting host species, caterpillars eating your plants is a natural consequence! They do not hurt the plants and should not be sprayed.
- Support local beekeepers, farmers and growers by purchasing local honey and organically grown produce.

