

POLLINATORS

What is a pollinator?

Pollinators are bees, wasps, moths, beetles, birds, and other small animals that fertilize plants by spreading pollen between flowers.

Why should we care about pollinators?

76%* of global food crops require animal pollination including many fruits, vegetables, and seed crops

*Pindar A, Mullen EK, Tonge MB, Guzman-Novoa E, Raine NE (2017) Status and Trends of Pollinator Health in Ontario. University of Guelph

What can I do?

Plant a pollinator friendly garden
Provide water
Avoid pesticides
Create habitat

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POLLINATOR FRIENDLY GARDENS

Choose pollinator-friendly plants

Choose native flowers

Native plants are the best food source for local pollinators. They provide the right kind of pollen and nectar.

Grow a variety of flowers

Different pollinators like different kinds of flowers. By planting a mix of colours, shapes, and blooming times, you'll support pollinators all season long.

Include herbs and flowering veggies

Herbs like lavender, mint, and thyme, as well as flowering vegetables like tomatoes and cucumbers, are great for pollinators.

Provide water

Pollinators need fresh water. You can leave out a shallow dish of water with some stones or twigs for them to land on while they drink. Keep it clean so mosquitos aren't encouraged to breed there!



Avoid using pesticides

Pesticides can harm pollinators. If you need to manage pests, look for natural alternatives like neem oil or plant-friendly insects





Create Habitat

Leave natural spaces for pollinators to live. Participate in "No-Mow May", or set up a bee hotel in your garden!



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POLLINATOR FRIENDLY FALL GARDEN TIDY UP



Less is More!

Leave seed heads and stems standing.
Create brush and leaf piles.
Avoid clearing flower beds back to bare soil.

Give pollinators the best chance by leaving these habitats through winter until the weather reaches consistently warm temperatures in spring.



Add a Bee Hotel

Bee hotels or purpose-built shelters provide a safe space for pollinators to rest through the colder months.

Position bee hotels in sunny, sheltered areas and make sure they're securely mounted. Don't clean them until after the bees have emerged in spring.

Pest Deterrents

Inviting pollinators to your garden doesn't mean they're welcome in your house! Prune foliage and rake debris at least 12" away from your house to discourage any uninvited guests over winter.



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**ALFALFA APPLE BROCCOLI
BRUSSELS SPROUTS
BUCKWHEAT BEANS BLUEBERRY
CABBAGE CARROT CAULIFLOWER
CELERY CANOLA CUCUMBER
CHERRY CRANBERRY FLAX
GRAPE LIMA BEANS KIWI
WATERMELON OKRA ONION
PARSNIP PEAR PEPPERMINT
PUMPKIN**

**POLLINATORS ARE WORTH
PROTECTING IN
GEORGIAN BLUFFS**

**RADISH RUTABEGA RASPBERRY
SQUASH SOYBEAN SUNFLOWER
BLACKBERRY STRAWBERRY
TOMATO TURNIP ZUCCHINI**