



Honey bees are important crop pollinators and provide us with honey. But did you know that they are not native to North America? In North America there are over 4000 species of native bees plus thousands of species of other native pollinators such as butterflies, moths, birds, beetles, flies, and bats. By planting for pollinators, we can help native pollinators and honey bees thrive.

Find Out More:

Try the Pollinator Partnership Zip code locator for the planting guide for your region:

<http://pollinator.org/guides>

Download the Pollinator Partnership planting app:

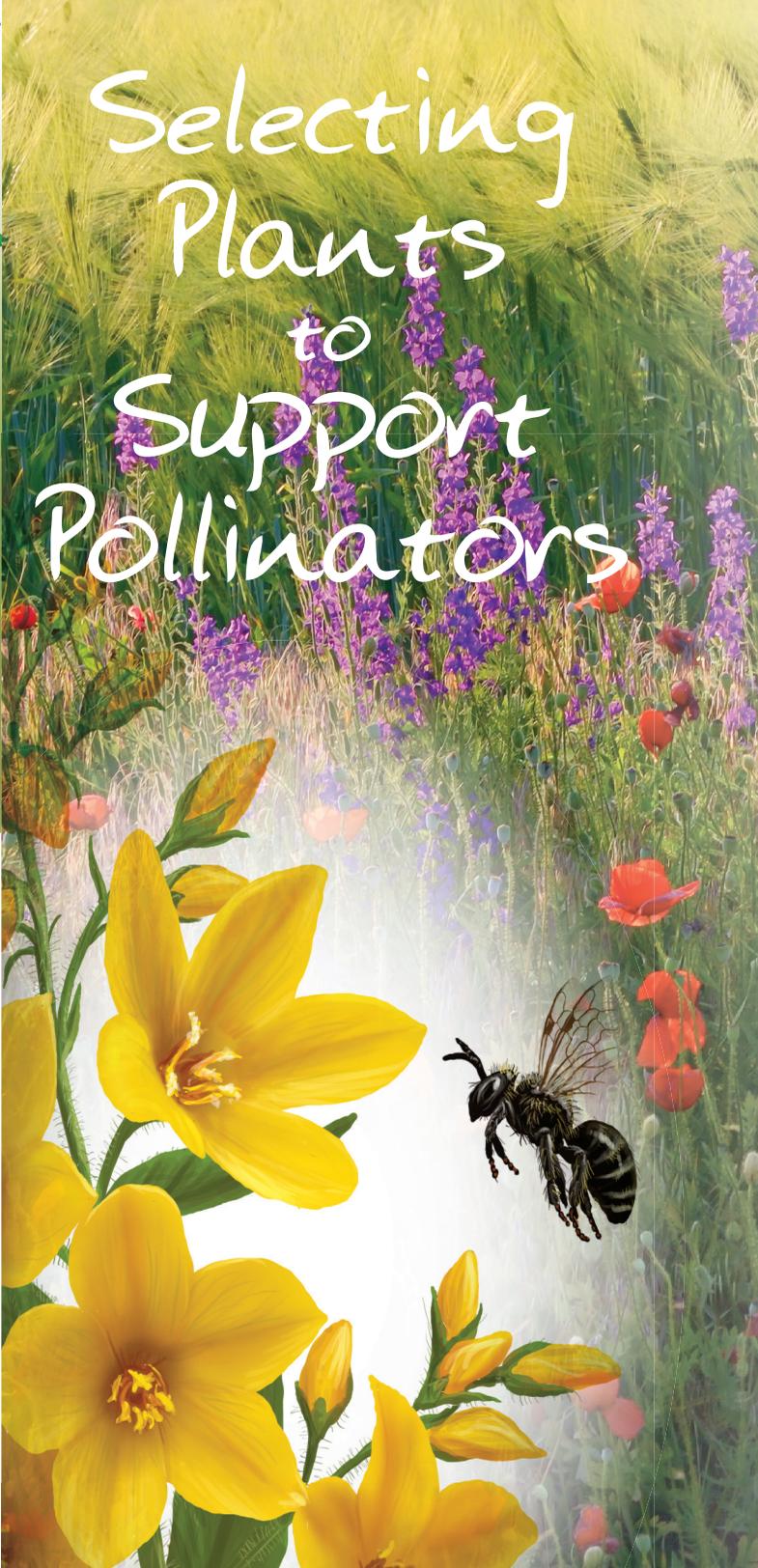
<http://pollinator.org/bee-smart-app>

Register your garden in the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge

<http://millionpollinatorgardens.org/>



Selecting Plants to Support Pollinators



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Most of us enjoy the beauty of gardens in our yards and neighbourhoods. Plants also provide habitat for pollinators and other wildlife-- from potted plants on patios to small gardens and landscape plantings-- all sizes are beneficial. This guide will help you select plants for your garden that will support pollinators and other wildlife.

Why Care About Pollinators?

Pollination is the movement of pollen from male parts of flowers to female parts of flowers to create seeds. This can be done by wind, gravity, or animals. **Any animal that moves pollen from flower to flower is called a 'Pollinator'**

Over 80% of flowering plants rely on animal pollinators for reproduction. Pollinators feed on plant pollen and nectar to survive and to raise their young, so plants and pollinators depend on each other. Seeds, nuts, fruits, and berries produced from pollination are also used by a vast array of wildlife. Pollinators are affected by habitat loss--there are fewer areas for them to find flowers. About one third of the food we eat requires bees, birds, bats and other pollinators, therefore humans and other animals would suffer greatly if we lost our pollinators. But you can help! Planting plants that bees, butterflies and other pollinators need can help save pollinators and ensure a healthy environment for future generations.



Did you know that we wouldn't have chocolate if there were no pollinators?! Chocolate flowers are pollinated by a tiny midge fly, making cocoa bean formation possible. Some other foods that rely on pollinators include blueberries, apples, peppers, squash, and almonds.



How to Plant a Garden for Pollinators



Choosing Plants for Pollinators

Select plants that flower because pollinators are looking for pollen and nectar. Mix in some grasses, ferns, and less showy flowers too – they provide resources for some pollinators like butterfly larvae, and they provide places for pollinators to nest or overwinter.

Native, Invasive, Exotic, Noxious, Oh My!

Choosing plants for pollinators does not have to be complicated, but it helps to know commonly used terms, the different types of plants available to you, which plants to prioritize, and which to avoid.

These Non-Native Plants Should NOT Be Planted

It is important to consult your local Extension Office or Invasive Species Council to make sure the plants you are using are not designated invasive or noxious in your region.

Native Plants

Plants that are a part of the natural environment of a region. Native plants, and their pollinators, have coevolved over thousands of years in a particular location. Selecting plants native to your region will provide the most benefit to pollinators and the environment.

Non-Native Plants

Plants that are not historically part of a region. They arrived in the region either intentionally or accidentally by humans or some other means. Other terms used for non-native plants include exotic, introduced, alien, and non-indigenous. Some non-natives are beautiful ornamentals and some provide resources for pollinators. There are a number of different types of non-native plants and some should never be intentionally planted.

Non-Invasive Plants

A plant that originated in a different location and is not historically part of an ecosystem BUT it does not reproduce on its own and does not spread or outcompete native plants. These plants are fine to plant in your garden.

Invasive Plants

A plant that is not native to the region and reproduces freely on its own. They invade natural or disturbed areas, outcompete native plants, and disrupt the ecosystem. Many seed mixes and plants sold at garden centers include species that are invasive in regions where they are marketed. Check species lists with local authorities and invasive species lists, and do not use if they are invasive.

Noxious Weeds

A plant that is particularly troublesome for agriculture, the environment, or public health. Noxious weeds should never be planted and some are illegal to plant in certain areas. Check noxious weed lists (e.g. <https://plants.usda.gov/java/noxComposite>) to find out what species are prohibited in your area.



Trees & Shrubs

While planting wildflowers is great for bees, butterflies and moths, don't overlook shrubs and trees! Many flowering shrubs and trees, such as maples, cherries, and willows, provide resources for pollinators. Oak trees are known to support over 500 butterfly and moth species! Check the resources at the back of this brochure to see what wild flowers, shrubs, and trees support pollinators in your region.

