



Habitat Gardening in Central New York

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Pollinator Resources

“Humankind needs to act quickly to ensure that the ancient pact between flowers and pollinators stays intact, to safeguard our food supply and to protect our environment for generations to come.”

~ Diana Cox-Foster

HOW TO HELP BEES

- 1) Provide flowers in a sunny area:** (see list on the back)
 - Plant at least 75% native plants
 - Mass flowers together in each of one or more areas
 - Diversity:
 - A variety of colors such as blue, purple, yellow, white
 - A variety of shapes
 - A succession of blooms throughout spring, summer, fall
- 2) Provide nesting spaces and shelter:**
 - bare ground, wood (snags, logs) (*preferable to manmade bee houses*)
 - overwintering areas; leave your yard a little “messy”
- 3) Reduce pesticides / herbicides** – preferably pesticide-free!
- 4) Display a Pollinator Habitat sign:** Purchase at gifts.xerces.org/products/pollinator-habitat-sign-2020
- 5) Participate in pollinator citizen science projects** (below)
- 6) Encourage neighbors and your community to join in!**

CITIZEN SCIENCE

How many bees are there? Help find out by participating in these Citizen Science projects!

The Great Sunflower Project - greatsunflower.org

Bumble Bee Watch - bumblebeewatch.org/

COMMUNITY EXAMPLES

Pollinator Pathways – pollinator-pathway.org

Bee City USA and Bee Campus USA – beecityusa.org

Pollination Guelph - pollinationguelph.ca – and good resources

BOOKS

Attracting Native Pollinators: Protecting North America’s Bees and Butterflies by The Xerces Society – **EXCELLENT RESOURCE!**

The Pollinator Victory Garden by Kim Eierman – Description at ecobeneficial.com/store/book/

Download FREE PDFs (or purchase hard copies) of the following books at pollinator.org/shop/books

Bee Basics: An introduction to our native bees–Beatriz Moisset et.al.

Bumble Bees of the Eastern United States - Sheila Colla et. al.

Caring for Our Piece of the Earth DISCUSSION COURSE

You can download this FREE 6-session discussion course at hgcnyc.org/course. Session 4 has lots of info on pollinators.

WEBSITES with more information

Our Habitat Garden, a local HGCNY garden: ourhabitatgarden.org - includes sections on insects, on bees, and on butterflies

The Xerces Society: xerces.org - *Lots of info* including:

- Pollinator Conservation Fact Sheets on many topics at xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets
- Conservation Resources for your region at xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center
- Pesticides in Yards and Gardens: xerces.org/pesticides/pesticides-your-garden

The Pollinator Partnership: pollinator.org - includes

- BeeSmart phone app and Planting Guides for each eco-region at pollinator.org/guides#zip
- Free signs to download: pollinator.org/garden-signs
- S.H.A.R.E. (Simply Have Areas Reserved for the Environment) at pollinator.org/share

The Million Pollinator Garden Challenge

millionpollinatorgardens.org/

SOME RECOMMENDED NORTHEAST NATIVE PLANTS

(roughly categorized by season)

*** CAUTION *** AVOID commercially available plants treated with pesticides even if labeled as “Bee-Friendly”! Buy pesticide-free plants grown organically or grow your own from organic seeds.

For information on growing conditions for plants:

Leopold, Donald: *Native Plants of the Northeast*

Cullina, William: *Growing and Propagating Wildflowers*

Cullina, William: *Native Trees, Shrubs, & Vines*

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: wildflower.org

NOTE: We recommend planting SPECIES rather than CULTIVARS

Spring

Shrubs and trees

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*) or other *Amelanchiers*

Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

Crabapple (*Malus coronaria*)

American plum (*Prunus americana*)

Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

Pussy willow (*Salix discolor*)

Lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)

Highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)

Summer

Shrubs and trees

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)

Bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*)

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) – NOTE: need a male for females

Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*) – NOTE: need a male for females

Native roses:

* Carolina rose (*Rosa carolina*)

* Virginia rose (*Rosa virginiana*)

* Swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*)

Allegheny blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*)

Thimbleberry aka Flowering raspberry (*Rubus odoratus*)

Vines

Hairy honeysuckle (*Lonicera hirsuta*)

Coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)

Herbaceous

Anise hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*) – very popular bee plant!

Milkweeds: (NOTE: Doubles as host plant for monarch caterpillars!)

* Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

* Butterflyweed (*A. tuberosa*) – Note: This is **NOT** butterfly bush (aka buddleia), an invasive non-native that is NOT recommended

* Common milkweed (*A. syriaca*)

* Poke milkweed (*A. exaltata*) (not the same plant as pokeweed)

Wild indigo (*Baptisia australis*)

Coreopsis (*Coreopsis*) – many varieties

Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) – avoid new cultivars

Joe-pye (*Eupatorium maculatum*) (or *E. purpureum* or *E. fistulosum*)

Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) but **NOT** pollen-free varieties!

Woodland sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*) – good for part shade

Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Oswego tea (*Monarda didyma*)

Penstemon (*Penstemon digitalis*)

Clustered mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*)

Slender mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*)

Canada burnet – (*Sanguisorba canadensis*)

Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*) or (*T. virginiana*)

Vervain – (*Verbena hastata*) or (*V. stricta*)

Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) and (*I. pallida*) – bee favorites!

Note: Spreads enthusiastically but is extremely easy to pull out

Culver’s root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)

Golden alexander (*Zizia aurea*)

Fall (Note: Many plants listed for summer continue blooming.)

Herbaceous

Goldenrods (*Solidago*) such as:

(NOTE: **Ragweeds, NOT goldenrods, are responsible for allergies!**)

* Stiff goldenrod (*S. rigida*)

* Rough-stemmed goldenrod (*S. rugosa*)

* Zigzag goldenrod (*S. flexicaulis*)

* Wreath goldenrod (*S. caesia*) – good for shade

Asters such as:

(CAUTION: Cultivars may not have the nectar pollinators need.)

* New England aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)

* New York aster (*Symphyotrichum novi-belgii*)