

# Pollinator Resources



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*“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/](http://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/](http://greatsunflower.org/)

**Bumble Bee Watch** - [bumblebeewatch.org/](http://bumblebeewatch.org/)

## COMMUNITY EXAMPLES

Seattle Pollinator Pathway – [pollinator-pathway.org/](http://pollinator-pathway.org/)

Pollination Guelph - [pollinationguelph.ca/](http://pollinationguelph.ca/)

Bee City USA and Bee Campus USA – [beecityusa.org/](http://beecityusa.org/)

## 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/](http://ecobeneficial.com/store/book/)

Download FREE PDFs (or purchase hard copies) of the following books at [pollinator.org/shop/books](http://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 [hgcny.wildones.org/course/](http://hgcny.wildones.org/course/). Session 4 has info on pollinators.

## WEBSITES

**An HGCNY garden:** [ourhabitatgarden.org/](http://ourhabitatgarden.org/) - includes sections on insects, on bees, and on butterflies

**The Xerces Society:** [xerces.org/](http://xerces.org/) - **Lots of info** including:

- Pollinator Conservation Fact Sheets on many topics at [xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/](http://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/)
- Conservation Resources for your region at [xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center/](http://xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center/)
- Pesticides in Yards and Gardens: [xerces.org/pesticides/pesticides-your-garden/](http://xerces.org/pesticides/pesticides-your-garden/)
- Pollinator Conservation in Yards and Gardens: [xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/yards-and-gardens](http://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/yards-and-gardens)

**The Pollinator Partnership:** [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org) - includes

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

## 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/](http://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 (*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*) **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*)

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

Asters such as:

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

\* New England aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*)

\* New York aster (*Symphotrichum novi-belgii*)