

PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS

INCLUDES, BEES, BUTTERFLIES, BATS, BEETLES, BIRDS, WASPS, FLIES, etc

Choose plants that flower at different times of the year to provide nectar and pollen sources throughout the growing season and have a variety of shapes and colors to attract different pollinators. Mix some annuals with perennials.

ANNUALS: Most annuals produce flowers that will attract pollinators. Plant for sequential blooming all season. Skip double-flowered hybrids: they don't produce enough pollen. Mass several of each variety. A big clump is like a sit-down buffet for pollinators. Butterflies and moths prefer landing on flat flowers while bees and birds like to investigate tubular flowers. Provide dishes or puddles of water for hydration.

Butterflies like muddy water where they get needed salts and nutrients. Plant a variety of shapes and colors to attract more pollinators *Some of these are perennials that are sold as annuals.*

Bachelor buttons	Zinnias	Alyssum	Borage	Impatiens
Calendulas	Sunflowers	Bee Balm	Marigold	Herbs: let them flower
Cosmos	Lantana	Dianthus	Nasturtiums	Ageratum
Mexican Sunflowers	Verbena	Lavender	Scabiosa	Gomphrena(Amaranth)
Russian sage	Salvia	Fuchsia	Petunia	Lobelia

PLANTS THAT ATTRACT BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS (host plants):See www.nwf.org for more

Sassafras, Spicebush: *Spicebush swallowtail*

Water Hemlock, parsley, dill, carrot, fennel: *Black swallowtail*

Milkweed: *Monarch butterfly*

Willow, poplar, aspen, cherry, plum: *Viceroy butterfly*

Elm, poplar, willow: *Mourning cloak butterfly*

Clover, legumes, alfalfa, vetch: *Sulfur butterfly*

Blueberry, viburnum, dogwoods: *Spring Azure butterfly*

COLOR PREFERENCES: Plant yellow, blue, and purple flowers for bees and flower flies. Bees cannot see red, but are attracted to some flowers that reflect ultraviolet light. Butterflies favor orange, yellow, pink, and blue flowers with sweet scents. They need to land before feeding and prefer flat-topped clusters or platform-shaped flowers in sunny locations. To attract hummingbirds to your garden, provide tubular flowers with lots of nectar in red, orange, purple and fuschia colors. Species to consider include nasturtiums, fireweed, fuchsia, honeysuckle, bee balm, and sage. Many fly species are also important pollinators and prefer green, white, and cream colors. They have short tongues so require simple flowers. Plant night blooming flowers for moths. Bats don't pollinate plants in the eastern U.S.

PERENNIALS: Try to plant native plants whenever possible. Native plants are 4 times more likely to attract bees. They are easier to grow because they are more drought tolerant, need less attention, less pesticides and fertilizers and we are helping to save the species. Plants marked with an * are native plants.

*Blue phlox

*Obedient Plant

Trumpet Vine

*Cranesbill (geranium)

*Asters

*Carolina Jessamine

*Milkweed (butterfly weed)

Salvia (Sage)

*Coreopsis

Clover, henbit, dandelions: (please don't call them a weed!)

Poppies

Mahonia (winter grape)

*Blackberries

*Mountain Mint

*Goldenrod

*Joe-Pye Weed

*Wild Indigo (Baptisia)

-PLEASE SEE BACK FOR MANY MORE-

Perennials continued: those with * are native

- *Spiderwort
- *Purple Coneflower (Echinacea)
- *Stoke's Aster
- *Blanketflower (Gaillardia)
- Catmint
- *Bee Balm (Monarda)
- *Beardtongue (Penstemon)
- *Green and Gold
- *Yarrow
- *Lupines
- *Liatris (Blazing Star)
- * Sneezewood
- * Ironweed (Veronica)
- *Black-eyed Susan(Rudbeckia)
- *Passionflower
- * Anise hyssop (a bee magnet)
- *Stonecrop (Sedum)
- Dogbane (Amsonia)
- Mallow(includes Hibiscus)
- Hollyhocks
- *Sundrops
- Queen Anne's Lace (biennial)

Shrubs: those with * are native

- *Oak-leaf Hydrangea (don't plant mop-heads)
- *Hollies (American Holly is native)-Ilex
- *Summersweet (pepper bush)
- *Piedmont Azalea
- *Fragrant Sumac
- Butterfly bush (can be invasive)
- Camellia
- *Blackberry and blueberry
- *Hearts-a-Bustin
- *Painted Buckeye
- * Sparkleberry
- *Spicebush
- *Honeysuckle (Shrubs and vines)
some are not native
- Vitex(Chaste tree)
- *Viburnum
- *Swamp rose
- *New Jersey Tea
- *Mountain Rhododendron
- *Buttonbush

Trees: those with * are native

- *Little Leaf Linden (basswood)
- *Witch-alder(Fothergilla)
- *Devil's Walking Stick (Prickly Ash)
- *Pawpaw
- *Mockernut Hickory
- *Eastern Redbud
- *Fringe Tree
- *Parsley Haw
- *Green Hawthorn
- *American Hornbeam (Ironwood)
- *Persimmon
- *Tulip Tree
- *Umbrella Magnolia
- * Apple, Cherry, Crabapple, Pear
(fruit bearing, not ornamental)
- Crepe Myrtle
- *Red Maple
- *Willow (can be invasive)
- *Sourwood
- *Oak, Poplar, Birch

Integrated Pest Management Practices are the best way to manage pests. Pesticides should always be used as a last resort. Do not use pesticides when flowers are in bloom. Always read the label: it is the law. When selecting pesticides choose those that are least toxic to pollinators. As an alternative use Bacillus Thuringiensis(Bt), insecticidal soap, horticultural oil, neem oil extract, or spinosad. Please contact your local extension agent and refer to these websites for more information:

www.pollinator.org, www.butterflyhighway.org, www.plantnative.org, www.Monarchwatch.org,
www.Buzzaboutbees.net, www.nwf.org, www.xerces.org, <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants>,
<http://www.bringingnaturehome.net/what-to-plant.html>

Cabarrus County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association