

Planting for Pollinators

the 6 principles

The pollinator perspective

A pollinator garden can be enjoyed by all who cross its path: gardener, passersby, and pollinators alike! The key to setting your bee-friendly space up for success? Planning your garden with a pollinator's perspective. *In other words, think like a bee!*

When planned with care, a pollinator garden has the power to provide precious habitat for bees, butterflies, and birds alike (not to mention a range of other fascinating creatures). By providing a reliable source of nectar and pollen as well as bee and butterfly nesting sites, your garden will serve as a haven for pollinators who are quickly losing their natural habitat.

To get started with your bee-friendly space, **follow these 6 principles of bee-friendly gardening, and your blooms will be buzzing bee-fore you know it!**

1 Choose bee-friendly flowers

This might sound obvious, but you may be surprised to learn that not all flowers are rich in nectar or pollen. In fact, many of the common 'ornamental' flowers we see in urban planting are not all that attractive to bees. Thankfully, there's a vast range of beautiful bee-friendly species to choose from. Seeking out nectar-rich species may lead you to discovering some new favorites!



2 Include native species

While bees and other pollinators will often visit a variety of different flowers, many of our important native and wild bee species rely on the flowers they co-evolved with. By including native species (or taking an “all-native” approach) in your garden, you’ll be providing our most endangered native pollinators with much-needed habitat.



Did you know that North America is home to 4,000 different species of bee? Many of these species are at risk due to habitat loss. The more native flowers we plant, the better their chances are of survival.

3 Always something in bloom

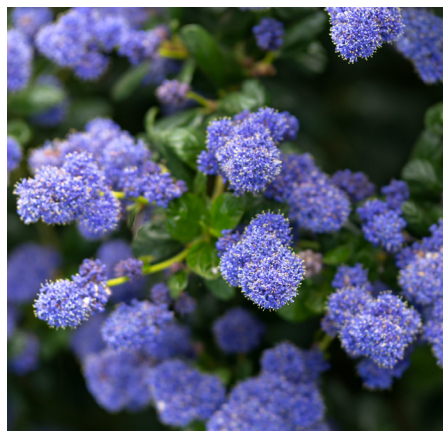
Unlike honey bees who forage throughout the entire blooming season, many species of bees and butterflies only appear at certain times of year. When choosing your flowers, take into consideration their bloom time and be conscious to choose at least one bee-friendly species to represent each blooming period.



The ‘shoulder seasons’ of early-spring and late-fall are some of the most food-scarce times for pollinators. The bees will thank you for including species that bloom during these most important periods!

4 Diversity is key

To each their own: different pollinators prefer different flowers. By including a variety of different colors and a range of flower shapes of sizes in your garden, you’ll be sure to attract many different pollinator species.



5 Provide nesting habitat

Providing a range of reliable nectar and pollen sources is an important first step to creating an impactful pollinator garden. To take it one step further, include nesting habitat for our buzzing friends. Some plant species double as food sources *and* larval nesting sites for insects and butterflies. Some bees search for pre-existing cavities, like hollow-plant stems or manmade wild bee homes, to create their nests. Including some of these elements in your garden will make a big difference for our tiny winged neighbors!



Did you know that monarch butterflies rely on milkweed flowers for reproduction? While the adult butterflies can visit a range of flowers, their caterpillars can feed only on milkweed leaves. Therefore adult monarchs will lay their eggs only on milkweed plants. There are several species of milkweed across North America and Mexico to support these butterflies as they migrate North to South and back again.

6 Go chemical free

An important characteristic of any pollinator garden is to be chemical-free. This means avoiding the use of pesticides or herbicides while maintaining your garden. Contact with these chemicals risks harming the beneficial pollinators and insects your garden intends to attract! Thankfully, there are various organic alternatives and recipes available, should your garden suffer from pests or disease.

