



GENERAL TIPS ON CREATING A POLLINATOR FRIENDLY GARDEN

1. Save your garden cleanup until spring.

- a. Wait to cut back last year's perennials and do general cleanup until daytime temps are in the mid-50's. Your plants are still providing shelter for many overwintering pollinators & other beneficial insects (*link to an excellent YouTube video on fall cleanup to help pollinators: <https://youtu.be/TIZWfFHoUmk>*).
- b. Stagger your cleanup over a period of days to allow different types of pollinators to warm up and become active.

2. Plan for a succession of blooms throughout the growing season – from early spring through fall.

3. Avoid planting too many double flowering plants – they generally have little or no nectar or pollen.

4. Emphasize native plants in your garden – they support native pollinators and your ecosystem.

5. Include native flowering trees, shrubs & vines in your landscape.

- a. Some early blooming trees can be the only source of pollen & nectar for early emerging bees.
- b. Many are larval hosts for butterfly and moth caterpillars.
- c. They provide habitat for birds and other wildlife.

6. Plant a diverse array of plants with different flower shapes, sizes and colors to accommodate a diverse array of pollinators.

7. Plant sizable patches of the same plant to make it easy for pollinators to find them. A 3- foot square patch is a good place to start.

8. Provide nesting sites for bees – often it is not lack of flowers but lack of nesting sites that limit our native bee populations

- a. 70% of native bees nest in the ground and need bare or almost bare areas in a sunny spot.
- b. Most other native bees nest in hollow plant stems, tree cavities, crevices in stone walls and the like.

9. Eliminate pesticides from your garden.

10. Reduce the amount of lawn area & create 'edges' in your landscape.

- a. Create a border area around your lawn with trees, shrubs and perennials to make a better habitat for pollinators.

SEE GOOD INFORMATION SOURCES LISTED ON THE BACK

GOOD INFORMATION SOURCES

WEBSITES

Sites dedicated to Butterflies, Moths, Bees & Other Insects

- Dupage County Monarch Project - <https://dupagemonarchs.com/>
- Monarch Watch – a site dedicated to education, conservation & research
<https://www.monarchwatch.org/>
- North American Butterfly Association – <https://www.naba.org/>
- Xerces Society – invertebrate conservations <https://www.xerces.org>
- Butterflies & Moths of North America (BAMONA) (collecting and sharing data about Lepidoptera)
<https://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/>

Sites with information about hummingbirds

- All About Birds – The Cornell Lab <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/>
- Hummingbird Central - <https://www.hummingbirdcentral.com/>

Sites related to plants information – identification & information on native & non-native, best plants for pollinators, creating gardens for pollinators

- Pollinator Victory Garden <https://ecobeneficial.com/PVG>
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center <http://www.wildflower.org/plants/>
- U.S. Forest Service – Celebrating Wildflowers - <https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/>

BOOKS

- Bringing Nature Home – Douglas W. Tallamy
- The Pollinator Victory Garden – Kim Eirman
- The Midwest Native Garden – native alternatives to nonnative flowers & plants – Charlotte Adelman & Bernard Schwarz
- Butterfly Gardening – The North American Butterfly Association Guide – Jane Hurwitz

YOUTUBE VIDEOS

- There are many informative videos on YouTube. Try searching using these key words
 - Creating a pollinator friendly garden
 - Hummingbird garden
 - Native North American bees
 - Planting a butterfly garden in the Midwest



