

Pollinator Gardens

Pollinator gardens are intentionally designed spaces to support pollinator survival. They provide food, shelter, water, and habitat for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, etc.



Key Design Principles:

- Use plant that are native to Wisconsin. Our native pollinators and native plants have evolved together, so they are most attracted to plants that are native in the area you live.
- Bloom succession—Plant have different bloom times throughout the summer, so choose shrubs, perennials, and annuals that provide something that blooms early Spring to Fall
- Plant in clumps (3-7 plants) A grouping of the same plant makes a nice stand that provides habitat, nesting, and blooms for a longer period of time
- Layered planting. Select plants of varying heights. This provides different levels of shelter and food sources for pollinators. Choose a variety of natives with mature heights of 6 inches to 6 feet if your planting site allows.



- Eliminate Pesticides. Pesticides kill bad bugs, but also the good ones too. Learn about dealing with insect and disease pests without hurting pollinators.
- Provide insect watering dish. Pollinators need shallow watering places for hydration and resting places.

Provide a puddling station or area for butterflies. Butterflies need a place for hydration, plus the minerals present in sand and mud.



There are many online sources to help you learn about supporting pollinators. Here are some quick links.

Support our native bees <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/files/2023/10/G4001.pdf>

Create your own watering dish. <https://www.mudandbloom.com/blog/make-an-insect-watering-station>

Create a Puddling station for your pollinators. <https://extension.psu.edu/creating-a-puddling-station-for-pollinators>

Pollinator friendly pest control <https://pesticides.org/blog/pollinator-protection-tips>

Assess the pollinator friendliness of your yard and what you can do to improve it. <https://pollinators.wisc.edu/pollinator-resources/habitat/>

