

POLLINATOR PALS



Bees and other pollinators are so essential to reproduction that most of the world's plant life could not exist without them. Most people recognize that bees are important pollinators, but many species of butterflies, bats, birds, moths, flies and even mammals are also pollinators.

The greater variety of plant types you have, the more pollinators you'll attract. Maintaining diversity will turn your garden into a full-service oasis!

Pollinators	Flower Preferences
<p>Bees</p> <p>Did you know? There are about 4,000 species of native bees in the U.S. ranging in length from less than one eighth of an inch to more than one inch. Most of these bees are "solitary" nesting and, having no hive to defend (as do nonnative honeybees), they are unlikely to sting!</p>	<p>Yellow, pink, blue, purple flowers. There are hundreds of types of bees that come in a variety of sizes and have a range of flower preferences. They can't see red, but are attracted to some red flowers, such as bee balm, that reflect ultraviolet light. Small bees, which have short tongues, prefer packed clusters of tiny flowers (e.g., marigold, daisy, butterfly weed, aromatic herbs).</p>
<p>Butterflies</p>	<p>Red, orange, yellow, pink, blue flowers. They need to land before feeding, so like flat-topped clusters (e.g., zinnia, calendula, butterfly weed, yarrow, daisy) in a sunny location. They also need food sources for larvae and places to lay eggs. These include milkweed, aster, lupine, thistle, fennel, violets, hollyhock, black-eyed Susan.</p>
<p>Moths</p>	<p>Light-colored flowers that open at dusk such as evening primrose.</p>
<p>Pollinating beetles</p>	<p>They prefer wide-open flowers, such as aster, sunflower, rose, and butterfly weed.</p>
<p>Flies</p>	<p>Green, white, or cream flowers. They have short tongues, so prefer simple-bowl shapes.</p>
<p>Hummingbirds</p>	<p>Red, orange, purple/red tubular flowers with lots of nectar (e.g., honeysuckle, sage, fuchsia, jewelweed, fireweed, cardinal flower, bee balm, nasturtium, century plant). No landing areas are needed since they hover while feeding.</p>
<p>Bats</p> <p>(Pollinating bats are found primarily in the Southwest)</p>	<p>Large, light-colored, night-blooming flowers with strong fruity odor (e.g., many types of cactus).</p>