

BRING YOUR YARD TO LIFE: HELP POLLINATORS THRIVE



Small garden choices can nourish pollinators & help grow the foods & flowers we love.

🌱 **POLLINATORS HELP FLOWERS BECOME FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND SEEDS.**

🌻 **Why Pollinators Matter**

- Pollinators are animals that move pollen from flower to flower, including bees, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, hummingbirds, and bats.
- They help flowering plants reproduce, sustain ecosystems and wildlife, and support many foods people enjoy, such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, chocolate, coffee, and other nutrient-rich crops.
- Without pollinators, many plants -and the animals and people that rely on them- would struggle to survive.

START SMALL: Plant one native flower, avoid pesticides when plants are blooming, and leave a little habitat for shelter and nesting.

Meet the Pollinator Team

 **Bees** visit bright, sweet-smelling flowers.

 **Butterflies and moths** sip nectar from broad or tube-shaped blooms.

 **Beetles** are drawn to spicy or fruity scents.

 **Hummingbirds** often visit red or orange tube-shaped flowers.

 **Bats** pollinate pale night-blooming flowers. (Note: According to [Maryland DNR's moon garden](#) guidance, Bats in Maryland benefit when gardens support night-flying insects. Plant evening-blooming or fragrant flowers such as evening primrose, buttonbush, Joe-Pye weed, goldenrod, asters, wild hydrangea, and moonflower vines to help feed moths—the insects many bats rely on.)

Quick Facts

- Pollinators help produce apples, blueberries, chocolate, coffee, melons, peaches, pumpkins, vanilla, almonds, and even tequila.
- In the U.S., pollination by honeybees and other insects supports about \$40 billion in products every year.
- Bees can fly about 7 miles per hour and beat their wings around 190 times per second.
- A single ladybug can eat as many as 5,000 aphids in its lifetime.

Plant for Pollinators

Pollinator habitat can fit almost anywhere—from window boxes and yards to farms, corporate campuses, utility corridors, and roadsides. Every space has the potential to support pollinators.

Choose plants native to your region, or at minimum, non-invasive species suited to your area. Match plant choices to your soil type and site conditions.

Plant in clusters so pollinators can easily find flowers and include species that bloom from spring through fall. Select a site with some sun, shelter from wind, and access to water.

Leave dead branches and logs when possible to provide nesting sites. Use less mulch so ground-nesting bees can access bare soil and consider adding wood nesting blocks for native wood-nesting bees.

Rethink Yard Care

Rethink routine yard care by mowing less often when possible, especially during early spring efforts such as “No Mow April,” when many pollinators are just becoming active. Let low-growing flowers like clover bloom when they are not causing a problem, leave some fallen leaves in garden beds through fall and winter for shelter, and avoid clearing every hollow stem or patch of bare soil. These simple changes provide food, nesting places, and overwintering habitat while also improving soil health, reducing yard waste, and helping prevent pest and disease problems over time.

MAKE YOUR YARD POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY

1. Plant flowers that bloom from spring through fall.
2. Choose native plants when possible.
3. Use Integrated Pest Management before pesticides: identify the pest, monitor the problem, try prevention or non-chemical controls first, and use the least-toxic option only when needed. *
4. Replace a little lawn with flowers or containers.
5. Add shallow water or a small muddy patch.

Reduce Pesticide Harm

Pollinator poisonings most often occur when pesticides that are toxic to bees, butterflies, and other pollinators are applied to blooming crops or flowering plants. To reduce harm, avoid spraying plants in bloom, apply treatments only when pollinators are least active, follow label directions carefully, and choose the least-toxic pest-control option whenever possible.

LEARN MORE

*Integrated Pest Management basics: [EPA IPM Principles](#)

Conserve Resources and Reduce Your Impact

Pollinators are strongly affected by extreme weather, including intense heat, drought, heavy rain, and shifting seasonal patterns. You can reduce your impact by planting diverse native flowers that need less extra water once established, protecting soil with leaves or plant stems, and using water wisely with rain barrels, drip irrigation, or watering early in the day. Reduce waste by composting yard trimmings, and choosing long-lasting, reusable materials. These small steps help your garden stay healthier during stressful conditions while providing food, shelter, and resting places for pollinators.

Get Involved

You can make a difference for pollinators beyond your own yard by taking part in citizen science projects, volunteering at local planting days or habitat restoration events, and supporting organizations that protect pollinators and native habitat. Share pollinator-friendly practices with neighbors, friends, schools, businesses, community groups, and local leaders so more spaces can provide food, shelter, water, and safe nesting areas for bees, butterflies, birds, and other pollinators.

TAKE ACTION THIS WEEK: Plant one flower. Protect one pollinator. Grow a healthier community.



By: Sabrina L. Moore | SLM Native Bloom Haven Inc. | May 1, 2026