

Basic steps to ensure a wonderful garden for both you and native pollinators

Use native plants

... many native pollinators prefer them, and some rely solely on them. Avoid cultivars as they often fail to produce nectar, pollen, or seeds.

Choose a variety of plants that will bloom throughout the season

... this makes for a more pleasing garden and also ensures that you will have food for different pollinators. Some pollinators are only active in early spring, late summer, or fall, while others are active all season.

Use a mixture of nectar and host plants

... both types of plants are important, and some native plants fulfill both needs. Butterflies and moths lay eggs on or near host plants so the emerging caterpillars can eat the leaves. You are growing food for the caterpillars, and the host plants will regrow the foliage that is lost.

Cluster plants of the same species

... this makes it easier for pollinators and caterpillars to feed and graze.

Include various colors of flowers

... different pollinators prefer different colors. The greater diversity of flower color you have, the more pollinators will visit your garden.

Don't use insecticides!

... even those labeled "organic" are often deadly to pollinators. Pollinators eat or graze on all parts of plants, so anything sprayed on any part of the plant can kill pollinators.

Use native grasses

... grasses provide structure in the garden, and many pollinators rely on grasses for reproduction and food.

All photos by Barbara Driscoll

"... to inspire understanding, appreciation, and conservation of plants in gardens and natural areas, and to advance a sustainable relationship between people and nature."

Remember!

... you are creating an ecosystem that will provide native insects with food, shelter, and water. Dead wood, flower stalks, and leaf litter are a great habitat for insects. In fact, many insects, including lightning bugs and some butterflies, actually require leaf litter for their larvae. Rock and water features also benefit pollinators while enhancing the beauty of your garden.



Native bee on Rattlesnake-master
(*Eryngium yuccifolium*)

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NORTH CAROLINA BOTANICAL GARDEN
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL



Creating Your Pollinator Garden

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Native Plants For Every Garden

NECTAR-PROVIDING PLANTS

Perennials:

- Aster (*Symphyotrichum* spp., *Eurybia* spp., *Ionactus liniifolius* and *Ampelaster carolinianus*)
- Beebalm/Bergamot (*Monarda* spp.)
- Black-eyed-Susan (*Rudbeckia* spp.)
- Blazing Star (*Liatris* spp.)
- Boneset (*Eupatorium* spp.)
- Green and gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*)
- Goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.)
- Joe-pye weed (*Eutrochium* spp.)
- Milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.)
- Mountain-mint (*Pycnanthemum* spp.)
- Passionflower (*Passiflora* spp.)
- Pea family (*Baptisia* spp., *Thermopsis villosa*, *Centrosema virginianum*)
- Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
- Rattlesnake-master/Eryngo (*Eryngium* spp.)
- Skullcap (*Scutellaria* spp.)
- Sunflower (*Helianthus* spp.)
- Tickseed (*Coreopsis* spp.)

Shrubs:

- Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)
- New Jersey-tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)
- Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)
- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)
- Sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*)
- Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*)

HOST PLANTS

Caterpillars need specific plants on which to dine.
Butterflies will lay their eggs on or near these plants

Perennials:

- Beardtongue (*Penstemon* spp.) – Buckeye and Checkerspot
- Pipevine (*Isotrema* spp.) – Pipevine Swallowtail
- Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*) – Black Swallowtail
- Milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.) – Monarch
- Passion flower (*Passiflora* spp.) – Fritillaries, Hairstreaks

Shrubs:

- Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) – Spicebush Swallowtail
- Winged Sumac (*Rhus copallinum*) – Red-banded Hairstreak

Trees:

... don't forget trees are home to many pollinators!

- Oak species (*Quercus* spp.) – multiple pollinators including several species of hairstreaks and moths
- Paw Paw (*Asimina triloba*) – Zebra Swallowtail
- Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) – Spicebush Swallowtail
- Tulip-trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) – multiple pollinators including Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

GRASSES

Many pollinators rely on grasses for reproduction and food.

- Hairgrass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)
- Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
- Panicum virgatum (*Switchgrass*)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

North Carolina Botanical Garden Website
ncbg.unc.edu/plants-and-gardening

Landscaping for Wildlife Using Native Plants
ncsu.edu/goingnative/create

The Xerces Society
www.xerces.org

Resources compiled by Debbie Roos,
Chatham County Cooperative Extension Agent
growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu/growingsmallfarms-pollinatorgarden

Attracting Native Pollinators:
Protecting North America's Bees and Butterflies
available in the NCBG Garden Shop and the Xerces Society

