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Home Garden Seed Association
www.ezfromseed.org

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Priority: Pollinators

Honeybees have been disappearing in record numbers, and they are not the only pollinators that are imperiled. Some butterflies and native bees have experienced significant population declines also, says Eric Mäder, Assistant Pollinator Program Director for the Xerces Society.

It was just a few years ago that homeowners were asking what they could plant that would *not* attract bees. Now, the question is more likely to be, “How can I attract bees and other pollinators to my garden?”



Pollinators are a diverse and fascinating group of invertebrates, and we have them to thank for beautiful blooming meadows, juicy summer berries, bountiful vegetable gardens, and colorful pumpkins and gourds.

The Home Garden Seed Association, inspired by the conservation work of the Xerces Society, encourages all home gardeners to help the cause of pollinator protection by planting more flowers, an important food resource for all kinds of bees and butterflies. Every flower border, bed, and windowbox helps!

Visit www.bringbackthepollinators.org and sign the Pollinator Protection Pledge. You can also order a Pollinator Habitat sign for your garden.

“Providing patches of flowers is one thing we can do to improve the environment for pollinators.” *The Xerces Society*

FACTS

- Flowers clustered in clumps of at least four feet in diameter are more attractive to pollinators than scattered individual flowers.
- A succession of flowering plants that lasts from spring through fall will support a range of bee species.
- Flowers of different shapes will attract different types of pollinators.
- Pesticides are a major threat to insect pollinators.
- The value, in dollars, of pollinators’ services to our food business is estimated to be upwards of \$4 billion—nothing to sneeze at!

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How to Grow a Pollinator Garden from Seed

Now is the time to plan for a bounty of pollen plants that will help pollinators in your region thrive from spring through fall.

Early spring: Where winters are cold, pollinators rely on blooming trees in spring, but early-blooming flowering plants provide additional resources.

Late spring through summer: Choices abound! Many pollinator favorites are annuals that can be easily, and inexpensively, grown from seed.

Late summer into fall: Sunflowers, agastache, herbs, and marigolds supplement late blooming perennials in sustaining pollinators into the fall.

Bee and Butterfly Plants You Can Grow Easily from Seed



EARLY-BLOOMING POLLINATOR PLANTS (Bloom time may differ, depending on location)

Agrostemma
Baby Blue Eyes
Bishop's Flower/ Ammi majus
California poppy
Cerinthe
Chives
Clarkia

Clover
Dianthus
Larkspur
Lupine
Mustards
Osteospermum
Parsley

Pea
Poppy
Sweet Alyssum
Viola
Wallflower

MID-SEASON POLLINATOR PLANTS

Bachelor's button
Basil
Black-eyed Susan
Blanketflower/ Gaillardia
Borage
Butterfly Flower/ Asclepias
Calendula

Cilantro
Coneflower/ Echinacea
Cosmos
Dill
Feverfew
Foxglove
Lavender

Lovage
Monarda
Portulaca
Squash, Pumpkin
Thyme
Tickseed/ Coreopsis

LATE-BLOOMING POLLINATOR PLANTS

Agastache
Amaranth
Cleome
Dahlia

Marigold
Mexican sunflower/ Tithonia
Salvia
Scabiosa

Sunflower
Zinnia