



## Attracting Pollinators to the Garden

Pollinators – insects and animals that move pollen from one flower to another – are essential to the environment; pollination enables plants to reproduce, make flowers, and produce fruit and vegetables.

### Right Plant - provides nutrients and shelter for pollinators

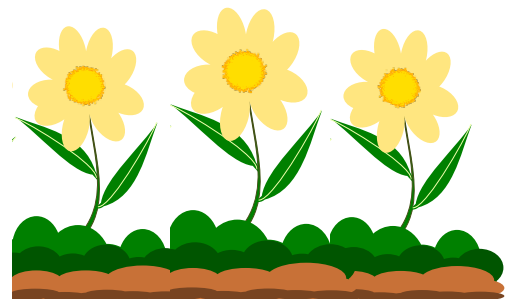
- Choose plants that are attractive to pollinators:
  - ◇ Pollinators prefer flowers that give easy access to the nectar and pollen
  - ◇ Fill your yard with flowers in a rainbow of hues:
    - \* Bees prefer blue, yellow, bright white
    - \* Hummingbirds zoom to red-toned blooms first
    - \* Butterflies favor red, orange, yellow, pink and purple tones.
  - ◇ Select plants that are native to the Pacific Northwest.
  - ◇ Plant flowers with a variety of shapes:
    - \* Hummingbirds prefer flowers that are trumpet-shaped, like Western columbine
    - \* Butterflies and bees like flowers that have a wide landing platform



- Flowering culinary herbs are very enticing to bees.
- Pollinators can be active throughout the year, so choose plants that bloom at various times and some that provide winter shelter and food for larvae.
- Know your plant source to ensure that the plants do not contain insecticide residue.

### Right Place - areas of the garden that are attractive to pollinators and suitable for plants

- If there is room on your patio or garden, put 3-5 of the same plant near each other to provide a tempting environment.
- Since bees and butterflies generally feed in the sun, locate good nectar sources in areas with mid-morning to mid-afternoon sun.
- Group plants with similar light and water requirements together.
- Consider planting for pollinators in low-traffic areas of the garden for minimal disturbance.



## Washington County Master Gardener™ Association

**Right Care** - Care for the plants in ways that also care for pollinators

- Avoid using pesticides; protect from nearby pesticide use.
- Offer water: water features, shallow bowls with landing spots, hummingbird feeders.
- Leave some bare ground and a small area of leaf litter for nesting.
- During Fall clean up, leave seed heads, blooms, berries, and fallen leaves to provide shelter and nesting areas.



**Right Help** – Even with the right place, the right plant, and the right care, gardening questions arise from time to time. The following resources provide reliable information:

- Master Gardeners™ <https://bit.ly/MetroMG>
- Clackamas County Master Gardeners™ gardening handouts <https://bit.ly/ccmghandouts>
- Selecting Plants for Pollinators Pollinator Partnership <https://bit.ly/pollinatorsplants>
- Creating Pollinator Habitat Colorado State University Extension <https://bit.ly/pollinatorhabitat>
- Pollinator Plants – Maritime Northwest Region <https://bit.ly/pollinmaritimenw>
- The Why, What, When, Where, Who, How of Pollination Smithsonian Gardens <https://s.si.edu/3ImzWsm>

**More information:**