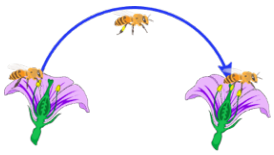
GREAT GARDENS

Washington County Master Gardener™ Association

Pollinators in Your Garden



This information sheet discusses the importance of pollinators and the many steps gardeners can take to attract them to their gardens.

What is a pollinator?

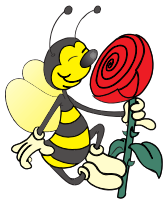
- A pollinator is anything that helps to carry pollen from the male part of a flower to the female part of the same or other flower.
- Common pollinators include birds, bees, butterflies, moths, flies, and beetles. Around our gardens, honey bees and hummingbirds might be the most noticeable.
- Wind and water also help spread pollen to plants.

Why is pollination important?

- Pollen movement must take place for the plant to be fertilized. The depositing of pollen is necessary for most plants to produce seeds and fruit.
- An estimated one-third of human food and a greater portion of wildlife food comes from plants that require pollinators to produce fruits and seeds. Therefore, helping pollinators thrive yields tangible benefits for all of us.

How to attract pollinators to your garden

- Flowers provide a source of nectar (sugar) and pollen (protein) for pollinators and their young. Plant a variety of colorful and fragrant flowers, herbs, local native plants, trees, and shrubs that will produce blooms from early in the spring through the fall.
- Weeds such as clover and dandelions can be beneficial to pollinators.
- Sunny planting beds filled with groupings of flowers help pollinators find their food while minimizing the expenditure of energy in their search.
- Old bird houses, dead trees, flowers and small clumps of grass can furnish easily accessible homes, shelter, and excellent nesting sites for a variety of pollinators.
- Thirsty pollinators will appreciate a clean and easy-to-reach water source.



Protect pollinators

- Bees, butterflies, and most other insects are susceptible to pesticides. Exposure can kill, or gradually weaken their ability to fly, forage, and produce young.
- Avoid pesticide application near pollinator nesting areas and blooming plants.
- Consider the drawbacks as well as the benefits before using systemic pesticides, particularly on plants visited by pollinators.

- Spray in the cooler parts of the day, such as at dusk or in the evening, when most pollinators are less active.
- Protect pollinators by not adding flowering plants to your garden that have been treated with neonicotinoids. Some plant labels include the phrase "Bee Safe."

Some pollinator-friendly perennial plants:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Season
**Achillea*	Yarrow	Summer, Fall
**Camassia quamash*	Camas	Spring
Echinacea	Echinacea	Summer, Fall
**Helianthus*	Sunflower	Summer, Fall
Lavandula	Lavender	Summer
**Lupinus polyphyllus*	Lupine	Spring, Summer
Origanum	Oregano, Marjoram	Summer
**Penstemon*	Penstemon	Spring, Summer, Fall
Perovskia atriplicifolia	Russian sage	Summer, Fall

* Oregon native plant. See Oregon Flora Project

Source: Plants for Pollinators. Clackamas County Master Gardener™ Association https://cmastergardeners.files.wordpress.com/2022/02/pollinator-plants.pdf

Resources

- Clackamas County Master Gardeners™ 10-Minute University gardening handouts in English **https://bit.ly/ccmghandouts**
- What is a pollinator? National Park Service **https://www.nps.gov/subjects/pollinators/what-is-a-pollinator.htm**
- Help Pollinators Where You Live. National Park Service **https://www.nps.gov/subjects/pollinators/helping-in-our-own-backyards.htm**
- Enhancing Urban and Suburban Landscapes to Protect Pollinators OSU Extension Service **https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9289**
- Attracting Pollinators to the Garden. Ohio State University Extension **https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/ENT-47**

This handout is adapted from "Attracting Pollinators," presented by 10-Minute University™ Clackamas County Master Gardener Association.

More Information: