

Backyard Habitats: Attracting Native Pollinators

Try to choose native plants; many ornamentals produce little or no pollen and nectar. Impatiens, daffodils, tulips, pansies and many other annuals don't provide nectar and pollen. Use a variety of flowering plants that bloom spring through fall; flowers that are bright colors (red for hummingbirds)

- Go to <http://www.jerseyyards.org> & enter your zip code and site specifics to get recommended plants for pollinators
- For fall, consider asters, goldenrods, joe-pye weeds, ironweeds, sunflowers, and sedums.
- For spring, consider beardtongue, columbine, blue violets, golden ragwort, phlox, and shrubs or small trees such as shadbush, dogwood, blueberry, Eastern redbud and all the wild cherries (black cherry, chokecherry)

Flowers:

Asters: New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)-dry, NY aster (*Aster novi-belgii*)-wet, Showy aster (*Aster spectabilis*)-dry, Smooth Aster (*Aster laevis*) - dry

Blazing Star, Dense (*Liatris spicata*)-dry

Black-eyed Susan: *Rudbeckia hirta* – dry, or *Rudbeckia fulgida* – blooms longer and tolerates partial shade - dry

Boneset, Common (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)-moist

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)-wet - hummingbirds

Coneflower, Purple (*Echinacea purpurea*) - dry, Giant Coneflower (*Rudbeckia maxima*) - dry

Coreopsis, Lance-leaf (*Coreopsis lanceolata*) dry

Foxglove Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)

Goldenrods: *Solidago odora*, *Solidago sempervirens*, *S. caesia*, *S. graminifolia*, *S. rugosa*, *S. speciosa*, (many others)

Honeysuckle, Trumpet or coral (*Lonicera sempervirens*) – red flowering vine, good for hummingbirds

Iris, Blueflag (*Iris versicolor*)-wet

Ironweed, New York (*Vernonia noveboracensis*)-wet

Joe Pye Weeds: Sweetscented (*Eupatorium purpureum*)- dry, Common (*Eupatorium dubium*), Hollowstem (*Eupatorium fistulosum*)- wet

Milkweeds: Butterfly Milkweed - orange (*Asclepias tuberosa*)- dry, Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) - wet

common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) dry,

Mints:

-Bee balms: Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), Horsemint, Spotted (*Monarda punctata*), Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*)

-Mountain mints: Short-toothed (*Pycnanthemum muticum*), Narrow-leaved (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*)- both dry

-Anise hyssop: (*Agastache foeniculum*)

Pea, partridge (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*) – dry, annual but self-seeds, also serves as host plant

Sage, Lyre-leaved (*Salvia lyrata*) – pale violet, shady moist areas

Sunflower, False or Oxeye (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)- dry

Sunflower, Swamp (*Helianthus angustifolius*)-wet

Vervain, Blue (*Verbena hastata*)- moist

In general: Daisies, zinnias, sunflowers, buttercups, goldenrods, valerians, mustards, asters, echinacea

Herbs: sage, mints, oregano, lavender, catnip, fennel, parsley*, thyme, chives

Shrubs: blueberry, buttonbush, shadbush, sweet pepperbush, winged sumac, viburnums

Trees: alder, black gum, black cherry, crabapple, American holly, black locust, eastern redbud, basswood, hackberry, magnolia, maples, willows

Food for caterpillars – host plants

- *Parsley, dill, and fennel are host plants for the black swallowtail caterpillar. When you plant these, you plant them with the intent that they will likely get eaten.
- Other host plants for caterpillars: Milkweed = monarch; Most asters, especially pussytoes = painted lady; Virginia creeper = sphinx moths; Spicebush and sassafras = spicebush swallowtail; Blueberry = azures, Violets = fritillary

And most importantly don't use pesticides! Encourage birds and insect predators of pests. Also encourage neighbors to reduce reliance on chemical pesticides.

www.planetnatural.com Planet Natural: Earth Friendly products for Home, lawn, and garden care

For honeybee swarm removal: Central Jersey Beekeepers Association:

<https://www.njbeekeepers.org/bee-identification-removal>

Landscaping with native plants is the best way to ensure your gardens make good forage; native flowers attract four times as many pollinators as nonnative ones.

Extend bloom seasons for three seasons.

Have more than one floral source, plant a variety of colors, shapes, and types of flowers

- Provide water in shallow bird baths or dishes where pollinators can easily land.

The Xerces Society, www.xerces.org

Named after the Xerces blue, first butterfly in the US to go extinct, dedicated to the conservation of invertebrates

Website has publications that can be downloaded as pdf's:

Guidelines for providing native bee habitat on farms

Pollinator friendly parks: How to enhance parks and greenspaces for native pollinator insects

Pollinators in natural areas: A primer for habitat management

Pollinator Conservation Handbook

For native bees:

Bee houses are for native bees to live in. Hole-nesting bees do not defend the holes and do not sting

Leave holes in a block of wood or bee boxes for shelter. Bee boxes can be found on the xerces.org website (click on bee nesting fact sheets). It is important that bee houses are cleaned out after the bees emerge so that fungus doesn't kill the next brood. If bee houses cannot be opened to be cleaned, they need to be thrown out. 2/3 of bee species nest in the ground. Leave some small patches of un-mulched soil for native solitary bees to nest in the ground.

The following commonly used insecticides (neonicotinoids) are **highly toxic to bees & other beneficial insects and wildlife:**

Imidacloprid

Fipronil

Thiacloprid

Dinotefuran

Acetamiprid

Thiamethoxam

Clothianidin

Pollinator	Shape	Color	Scent	Examples of flowers
Beetles	Large, shallow bowl shaped	Dull green/white	Strong, fruity	Magnolia, water lily
Bees	Not tubular, with a landing platform	Yellow, blue, pink, purple, white	Sweet	Clovers, violets, mints, goldenrods etc.
Butterflies	Tubes with rim	Vivid colors	Weak	Mints, milkweeds, beardtongues, blazing star
Moths	Tubes without rims, open at night	White or pale yellow	Strong	Morning glory, phlox, evening primrose
Birds	Deep wide tube	Red	None	Cardinal flower, trumpet honeysuckle