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

Use native plants

... many native pollinators prefer them, and some rely soley 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.

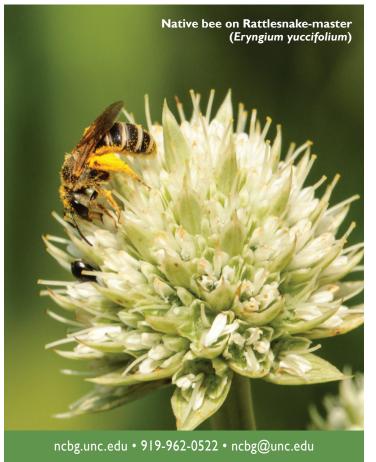
Use native grasses

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

"... 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.





Your Pollinator Garden

ncbg.unc.edu



Native Plants For Every Garden

NECTAR-PROVIDING PLANTS

Perennials:

- Aster (Symphyotrichum spp., Eurybia spp., Ionactus linariifolius 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.)
- loe-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 Checkerspots
- 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 (Asmina 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







