

Bee Diverse!

- Use a variety of flower colors, shapes, and sizes and plant heights.
- Choose flowers known to attract many pollinator species, such as Black Eyed Susan, Blue Vervain, and New England Aster.

Go Native. Pollinators are best adapted to native plants from the region; *and*, native plants need less water, are less invasive, and can survive under varied conditions unlike some ornamentals.

Pick some **host plants** that support food and habitat for butterfly and moth lifecycles – egg, larvae, and adult

Provide a **water source** such as a shallow bowl filled with small rocks on which the pollinators can land while taking a drink.

Bee Bountiful. Flowers clustered into clumps of one species will attract more pollinators than single plants isolated from one another. Bees use less energy to forage in larger clumps.

How to Plant for Pollination Systems

Reframe your “Lawn”. Create habitat in your lawn by dedicate less area to lawn, mowing less frequently and no shorter than 4” high. Use lawn alternatives like native ground covers, sedges, low growing wildflowers. OR establish a native wildflower meadow.



Bee Homey.

- To attract butterflies and moths, make small piles of branches;
- For other bumblebees and beneficial insects, leave hollow twigs, rotten logs, rock piles, old rodent burrows and tall grasses for nesting and as safe places for insects to overwinter and hibernate.

Bee Chemical Free. Avoid using plants that were exposed to insecticides or herbicides in seed or plant form. *

Provide sufficient nectar and pollen:

- **Plant for 3 seasons:** Have at least 3 different pollinator plants in bloom each season (spring, summer, fall)
- Plant at least 3 plants of each variety and in masses when possible

Bee a little messy – don't mulch everything. Did you know that between 70-80% of bee species are ground dwellers and need bare dirt to burrow? Beneath rocks and at the base of plants you can provide bare soil that ground dwelling pollinators need.

Bee Sunny. Provide areas with sunny, bare soil that's dry and well-drained.



* Even low levels of pesticides like neonicotinoids can disorient and kill bees over time