

## Attracting Pollinators to Your Yard Using Native Plants

Reprinted from a US Forest Service publication <https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/documents/AttractingPollinatorsV5.pdf>

Distributed by the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association [nokomiseast.org](http://nokomiseast.org) for the **Grow Monarch Habitat** project

### Planning your garden – think like a pollinator.

**Go Native.** Pollinators are “best” adapted to local, native plants, which often need less water than ornamentals.

**Bee Bountiful.** Plant big patches of each plant species (better foraging efficiency.)

**Bee Showy.** Flowers should bloom in your garden throughout the growing season. Plant willow, currant, and Oregon grape for spring and aster, rabbit brush and goldenrod for fall flowers.

**Bee Patient.** It takes time for native plants to grow and for pollinators to find your garden, especially if you live far from wild lands.

**Bee Gentle.** Most bees will avoid stinging and use that behavior only in self-defense. Male bees do not sting.

**Bee Chemical Free.** Pesticides and herbicides kill pollinators.

**Bee Sunny.** Provide areas with sunny, bare soil that’s dry and well-drained, preferably with south-facing slopes.

**Bee Homey.** Make small piles of branches to attach chrysalis or cocoons. Provide hollow twigs, rotten logs with wood-boring beetle holes and bunchgrasses and leave stumps, old rodent burrows, and fallen plant material for nesting bees. Leave dead or dying trees for woodpeckers.

**Bee a little messy.** Most of our native bee species (70%) nest underground so avoid using weed cloth or heavy mulch.

**Bee Aware.** Observe pollinators when you walk outside in nature. Notice which flowers attract bumble bees or solitary bees, and which attract butterflies.

**Bee Friendly.** Create pollinator-friendly gardens both at home, at schools and in public parks. Help people learn more about pollinators and native plants.

**Bee Diverse.** Plant a diversity of flowering species with abundant pollen and nectar and specific plants for feeding butterfly and moth caterpillars.

