



Start Your First Native Pollinator Garden

Starting a native pollinator garden is a rewarding way to attract bees, butterflies, birds, and other beneficial insects while supporting local ecosystems. Here's a step-by-step guide to help you begin.



Supply List

- Comfortable Gloves
- Protective Sun Apparel
- Hand Tools
 - Hand Rake
 - Trowel
- 5-Gallon Bucket
- Shovel
- Rake
- Hose with Sprayer
- Watering Bucket
- Compost
- Soil Conditioner
- Seeds or Starter Plants



Step 1: Understand Your Local Ecosystem



Research Native Plants: Learn about plants that are native to your region. These plants will be adapted to local climate, soil, and wildlife, making them perfect for a pollinator garden.

Know Your Pollinators: Identify the types of pollinators in your area (e.g., native bees, butterflies, hummingbirds). This will help you select plants that provide the best nectar and habitat.

Step 2: Choose a Location



Sunlight: Most pollinator-friendly plants need at least 6 hours of sunlight a day. Choose a spot in your garden that gets plenty of sun.

Soil: Test your soil's pH and composition to understand its quality. Native plants typically thrive in the natural soil of their environment but amending it may be necessary depending on your selections.

Step 3: Plan Your Garden Layout



Diverse Plant Heights: Include plants of varying heights (tall grasses, shrubs, and ground covers) to attract a variety of pollinators.

Group Plantings: Pollinators are more attracted to clusters of the same plant species, so plant in drifts (clusters) rather than single plants scattered throughout.

Bloom Seasons: Plan for continuous blooming throughout spring, summer, and fall by choosing plants that bloom at different times of the year.

Step 4: Selective Native Plants

Choose a mix of plants that provide nectar, pollen, and habitat. Common native pollinator plants include:

Wildflowers: Milkweed (for monarchs), Black-eyed Susans, Blanketflowers.

Perennials: Coneflowers, Bee Balm, Goldenrod.

Shrubs: Buttonbush, New Jersey Tea, Elderberry.

Trees: Serviceberry, Redbud, Willow.



Step 5: Prepare the Soil



Weed the Area: Remove any invasive plants or weeds from the site.

Loosen the Soil: Turn the soil to loosen it up for planting.

Add Compost: Enrich the soil with organic matter, especially if the soil is nutrient-poor or compacted.

Step 6: Plant Your Pollinator-Friendly Plants



Timing: Plant in early spring or fall when temperatures are cooler.

Spacing: Follow the recommended spacing for each plant species to allow room for growth and proper air circulation.

Watering: Water plants immediately after planting and maintain regular watering until they establish strong roots (usually the first season).

Step 7: Provide Shelter and Water



Bee Habitats: Leave small piles of wood and bare ground for ground-nesting bees. Leafcutter bees, for example, benefit from nearby access to leaf material and hollow stems.

Water Source: Provide a shallow dish with water and rocks or sticks for pollinators to rest on.

Step 8: Maintain Your Garden



Avoid Pesticides: Many pesticides are harmful to pollinators. If you must use them, opt for organic options and apply them in the evening when pollinators are less active.

Prune and Deadhead: Remove dead flowers and prune plants to encourage new growth and prolonged blooming.

Mulch: Use mulch to retain moisture, regulate soil temperature, and prevent weeds.

Step 9: Monitor and Adapt Your Garden



Observe Your Pollinators: Take note of which plants attract the most pollinators and adjust your planting choices accordingly.

Adjust Plantings: If certain plants are struggling, replace them with better-suited native species.

Step 10: Enjoy Your Garden and Educate Others



Enjoy the beauty and life in your garden!

Share what you've learned with others to promote pollinator-friendly practices in your community.

Find Out More About Pollinator Conservation and Gardening at



theflutterbuzz.com