



# *Creating an Urban Pollinator Garden Habitat with Native Plants*

**Supporting Biodiversity  
Across the United States**



**No matter where you live in the United States—whether it’s a city block in New York, a desert neighborhood in Arizona, or a suburb in the Midwest—you can create a thriving pollinator garden. Every patch of habitat matters. By choosing native plants and designing with pollinators in mind, you can help reverse habitat loss and support biodiversity right in your community.**

**This guide will show you how to build a pollinator habitat that works for your local ecoregion and attracts native bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, moths, and beneficial insects.**



# Chapter 1: Why Urban Pollinator Gardens Matter



**Pollinators sustain ecosystems: Over 75% of flowering plants depend on animal pollinators.**

**Diverse pollinators, diverse roles: From tiny sweat bees to monarch butterflies, each species has unique needs and benefits.**

**Urban areas are vital: Cities and towns are often seen as concrete deserts— but with the right plants, they can become stepping stones that reconnect fragmented habitats across landscapes.**

# Chapter 2: Principles for Any Region



**No matter your state or climate, these principles hold true:**

**Go native – Use plants that evolved in your area; they're best suited for your pollinators and soils.**

**Stagger bloom times – Include spring, summer, and fall flowers to ensure food all season.**

**Support diversity – Combine flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees.**



### **Step 3: Plan your garden layout**

**Keep it chemical-free – Avoid pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers that harm wildlife.**

**Provide shelter and water – Bare ground, hollow stems, brush piles, and shallow water dishes all support pollinators.**

# Chapter 3: Finding Your Local Native Plants



**Use native plant societies:** Each state has groups that maintain lists and guides.

**Check regional seed libraries/nurseries:** Look for “local ecotype” seed when possible.

**Explore USDA & ecoregion tools:** The **USDA PLANTS Database** and **Native Plant Finder** are great starting points.

# Native Plants by Region



## **NORTHEAST & MID-ATLANTIC**

***Echinacea purpurea* (Purple Coneflower)**

***Solidago canadensis* (Goldenrod)**

***Asclepias tuberosa* (Butterfly Milkweed)**

## **SOUTHEAST**

***Coreopsis lanceolata* (Lanceleaf**

***Coreopsis*)**

***Liatris spicata* (Blazing Star)**

***Passiflora incarnata* (Passionvine)**



## **TIP:**

Swap the examples above with plants native to your exact county for maximum impact.

### **MIDWEST & GREAT PLAINS**

*Ratibida columnifera* (Prairie Coneflower)

*Helianthus maximiliani* (Maximilian Sunflower)

*Monarda fistulosa* (Wild Bergamot)

### **SOUTHWEST & DESERT REGIONS**

*Penstemon barbatus* (Beardtongue)

*Chilopsis linearis* (Desert Willow)

*Baileya multiradiata* (Desert Marigold)

### **PACIFIC NORTHWEST & WEST COAST**

*Eriogonum* spp. (Buckwheat)

*Camassia quamash* (Camas Lily)

*Ribes sanguineum* (Red-flowering Currant)

# Chapter 4: Designing for Pollinators



**Plant in clusters:** Big groups of flowers attract more pollinators than scattered singles.

**Mix flower shapes:** Tubes for hummingbirds, daisy-like blooms for bees, clusters for butterflies.

**Think vertical:** Combine groundcovers, tall perennials, and shrubs/trees for layers of habitat.

**Leave “wild zones”:** Even a corner with leaf litter, seed heads, or brush piles is critical shelter.

# Chapter 5: Beyond Bees and Butterflies



**Your garden will attract and support:**

**Birds** – Feed on seeds, fruits, and insects.

**Bats** – Consume moths and other night insects.

**Beneficial Wasps** – Act as pollinators and natural pest control.

**Beetles, ants, and flies** – Often overlooked, but key pollinators and decomposers.

# Chapter 6: Seasonal Care Anywhere



**Spring** – Delay cleanup until temps are consistently above 50°F; many pollinators overwinter in stems and leaves.

**Summer** – Water only as needed while plants establish, then rely on local rainfall.

**Fall** – Leave seed heads for birds, and stems for nesting bees.

**Winter** – Resist tidying—nature needs the shelter.

# Chapter 7: Scaling Up to Community Action



**Start a neighborhood pollinator pathway:  
link yards, schools, and parks.**

**Host native seed swaps or workshops.**

**Advocate for pollinator-friendly  
ordinances: less mowing, fewer  
pesticides, more natives.**

**Use your garden as a teaching tool for  
kids, neighbors, and local groups.**

# Chapter 8: Resources



[Pollinator Partnership](#)

[Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation](#)

[National Wildlife Federation Native Plant Finder](#)

[State & regional Native Plant Societies](#)

# Conclusion



**Pollinator decline is a global issue—but the solution starts locally. By creating gardens filled with native plants, you restore lost habitat, sustain biodiversity, and reconnect people with nature.**

**Your patch of land—no matter how small—can be part of a national movement toward thriving ecosystems.**

*Every garden matters. Every flower counts.*

# Find Out More About Pollinator Conservation and Gardening at



[theflutterbuzz.com](http://theflutterbuzz.com)