

Pollinator Friendly Garden Beds

Planting for Pollinators

Pollinator gardens include many native plants and often require less work in the summer than vegetable gardens. They are full of flowers and ecology lessons- imagine your class on a butterfly cocoon safari! Different plants host eggs, larvae, pupae and adults; so you can create interest all season long as you explore life cycles. You'll also provide lesson space for pollinator conservation as you provide food and habitat for pollinators like bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

These gardens are a great alternative if you have a lot of space but soil not suitable for growing edible plants. Schoolyard habitats and pollinator gardens are ideal for outdoor science and observation. Build a biological island by installing plants that provide food and shelter for wildlife.

Consider Growing:

Angelica (*Angelica archangelica*)

Apple (*Malus*)

Beebalm (*Monarda*)

Borage (*Borago officinalis*)

Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Calendula (*Calendula officinalis*)

Catnip (*Nepeta cataria*)

Cilantro (*Coriandrum sativum*)

Cypress vine (*Ipomoea quamoclit*)

Dill (*Anethum graveolens*)

Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)

Flax (*Linum usitatissimum*)

Goldenrod (*Solidago*)

Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*)

Lindera (*Lindera benzoin*)

Marigold (*Tagetes erecta*)

Mexican Sunflower (*Tithonia diversifolia*)

Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)

Mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*)

Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*)

Sage (*Salvia officinalis*)

Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*)

Violet (*Viola odorata*)

Some pollinator plants will spread (such as mints and milkweeds), so either plant them where this won't be an issue, or plan for annual maintenance to reduce the size of the plant.

You can register your pollinator garden at www.millionpollinatorgardens.org, and the National Wildlife Foundation's website provides additional information on gardening for pollinators.

A Note about Pollinator Seed Mixes

Beware that many of these mixes are often blended with varieties of plants that are not suitable for pollinators of New England, and some may even be **invasive** (plants or animals that are alien to the region and that can or do damage our ecology, environment, or economy).

Habitat Gardens

Support pollinators and even more beneficial wildlife. Your garden can provide: food, water, cover, a place to raise young, and an engaging observation space. For the health of the wildlife, be sure to use sustainable practices, and register your garden with the National Wildlife Foundations' Wildlife Habitat network. Record the presence of different animals, and compare their arrival year to year. Study life cycles, relationships, food chains, and practice science journaling in an incredible space.

Consider Growing:

- Amaranth (*Amaranthus caudatus*, *A. cruentus*, & *A. hypochondriacus*)
- Brown-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- Beet berry (*Chenopodium Capitatum*)
- Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
- Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
- Cosmos (*Cosmos bipinnatus*)
- Elder (*Sambucus Canadensis*)
- Flax (*Linum usitatissimum*)
- Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)
- Marigold (*Tagetes erecta*)
- Millet (*Pennisetum glaucum*)
- Mexican Hat (*Ratibida columnifera*)
- Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*)
- Mulberry (*Morus alba/nigra*)
- New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)
- Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)
- Sumac (*Rhus typhina*)
- Viburnum (*Viburnum spp.*)
- Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*)

Founded in 1829, Massachusetts Horticultural Society is dedicated to encouraging the science and practice of horticulture and to developing the public's enjoyment, appreciation, and understanding of plants and the environment. Located in the historic Elm Bank Reservation, The Gardens at Elm Bank provides a place where people of all backgrounds can come together for inspiration and education.

Mass Hort's public gardens are a place of beauty, discovery, quiet reflection, and appreciation of garden design. Massachusetts Horticultural Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Please visit MassHort.org to learn more about its mission and educational programs including: the Mass Hort Plantmobile which visits schools and communities to engage youth in plant science; and Community Supported Horticulture programs which supports educators in using gardens as teaching spaces.