



Thank you to P.S. 38 Ms. Martinetti's STEAM Team for the instructions!

1. Materials

- Container (empty coffee can, oatmeal canister, flowerpot)
- Butcher paper, untreated parchment or paper bags
- Writing utensils or dowels in various widths (i.e., a pencil or a large marker)
- Clear tape
- Scissors
- Peat moss
- Paint and paintbrush (optional)

2. Prepare the Container

If using an empty coffee can or similar, remove the lid but leave the bottom intact. If using a flowerpot, cover the drainage hole with paper and tape.

3. Making Nesting Tubes

Create a sturdy nesting tube by rolling a sheet of brown paper snugly around a pencil, wooden dowel or marker. Secure the tube with a few pieces of tape, and gently slide it off the pencil or dowel. Close one end of the tube by covering it with tape. Vary the sizes of the tubes by using different widths of writing utensils or dowels.

4. Assemble the Pollinator House

Place the rolls inside your container, with the closed ends at the bottom of the container. Trim tubes so they are flush with the container opening. Fit as many tubes as possible within the container so they are snug and don't shift around.

Fill in gaps between the tubes with small handfuls of peat moss. Moss will help insulate the bee house, providing a comfortable environment for the bees. Glue all of your small paper rolls and glue them into the painting can and glue the string to the painting can. You have now created a pollinator house made out of paper rolls, a can or a flowerpot.

Resources

Learn about Jersey-Friendly Plants:

<https://www.jerseyyards.org/jersey-friendly-plants/>

New Jersey Audubon Society:

<https://njudubon.org/gardening-for-wildlife/>

Pollinator Partnership:

<https://www.pollinator.org/>

Jersey City Environmental

Commission:

<https://jerseycitynj.gov/environmentalcommission>



learn all about...

urban pollinator habitats



Pollinators are important for our environment and for biodiversity. As urbanization continues to alter the natural landscape, managing urban environments as important habitats for pollinators will become ever more relevant.

What are pollinators and why are they important?

A pollinator is an insect or animal that transfers pollen from one plant to another, which produces fertile seeds. Pollinators include bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, beetles, and other animals.

Pollinators are important because they play a critical role in maintaining healthy ecosystems.

Did you know that 80% of all flowering plants and over three-quarters of the staple crop plants that feed humankind rely on animal pollinators? And because pollination results in the reproduction of plants, pollinators are key to clean air. Supporting urban pollinators is a win-win for everyone in Jersey City -- pollinators, plants and people!

Why use native plants to support pollinators?

Growing a variety of native plants not only adds beauty to our landscape, but provides important habitats for our native pollinators. Native plant species are adapted to our region's climate and environment. Native pollinators have evolved with native plants, so our pollinators are adapted to using them to meet all their needs.

Some native New Jersey plants include:

- Black Eyed Susan
- New England Aster
- Scarlet Bee Balm
- Coral Honeysuckle
- Common Milkweed
- Eastern Bluestar
- Black Baneberry
- Common Milkweed
- Black Baneberry
- Indigo Bush
- Red Baneberry
- White Snakeroot



Urban greenspaces for pollinators

Many of us enjoy the beauty of flowers and plants in our city parks, community gardens and schoolyards. Green spaces in urban areas are also important for pollinators and appropriate management can help to maintain and support populations of pollinators into the future.

If you are limited on space, here are some quick and easy ways to support pollinators:

- Try planting a native plant species in a pot that you can display on your balcony or porch. Alternatively, window boxes are a simple but effective way to create an urban pollinator hot spot.
- If you have existing non-native plants, try swapping them for native plants. If you have non-native plants, make sure they are not invasive species because they can harm our ecosystem.
- Plant a wide range of native plants in the garden to attract a large variety of pollinators.
- Build a pollinator hotel or house. They provide a home for solitary bees and a place for other pollinators that live alone to build their nests.