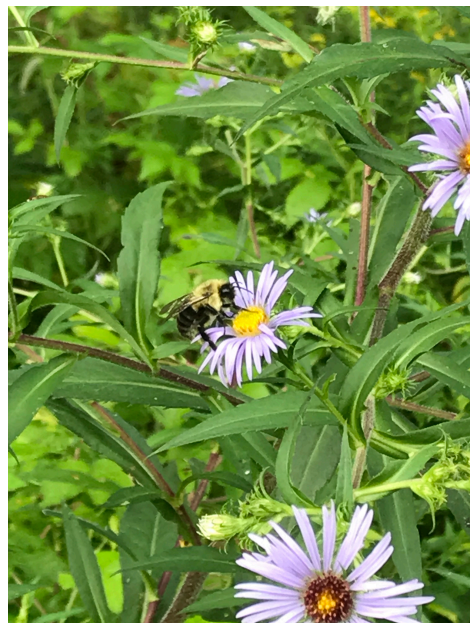


Facility Adoption of Pollinator BMP's

Pollinating insects play a critical role in the success of many natural habitats as well as the production of many crop foods. In recent years, pollinators have been threatened by habitat loss, non-sustainable use of plant protection products, pollution, disease and climate change. Val Halla strives to not only limit our effect on pollinators, but increase their habitat and populations.

Reduced Risk Pesticides

Whenever possible, we strive to use reduced risk pesticides. Lately, the decline of pollinators has raised significant concern over the effects that some insecticides have on these species. Upon becoming aware of the potential for collateral damage through the use of these products, Val Halla has switched primarily to newer chemistries that pose no known effects on pollinators. These products are more expensive (as are most newer chemistries), however they require significantly less quantities to be effective and also only need to be applied every other year, as compared to annually.



Operation Pollinator

Val Halla is a proud partner of *Operation Pollinator*; an international biodiversity program to boost the number of pollinating insects. The goal of this partnership is to create essential habitat that provides nesting and food resources for bees, pollinators and beneficial insects, as well as for small mammals and farmland birds, enhancing overall biodiversity. With the help of volunteers, we are pleased to say we have seen an increase in these species.



Monarchs In The Rough

Due to many of the same issues that threaten bees and other pollinators, Monarch butterflies have also seen dramatic population declines. For this reason, we are also proud to partner with Monarchs in the Rough; a program aimed at the restoration of pollinator habitat in out-of-play areas to increase Monarch butterfly populations. Monarchs need milkweed plants to survive; as they lay their eggs on these plants and monarch caterpillars need to eat milkweed to survive. We sow milkweed seeds and also leave all native milkweed in naturalized and out-of-play areas.

