

"CREATING A BUZZ: HOW A POLLINATOR GARDEN CAN BENEFIT YOUR GARDEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT"

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I've always loved spending time in my garden, but I never really paid much attention to the types of plants I was growing. Then, I stumbled upon the idea of creating a pollinator patch to attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. I thought it would be a fun project, so I decided to give it a try.

It wasn't a surprise that the pollinators attracted the bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds after I created the pollinator garden. Still, it was a surprise how quickly my entire garden started to grow like crazy! It was like the plants were suddenly supercharged with energy. I was amazed at how fast everything grew and how healthy the plants looked. The bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds were all doing their part to help my garden thrive.



It's not just a fun project, but it also positively impacts the environment.



- Pollinator gardens are an excellent way to promote biodiversity in your local area. By creating a habitat for bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds, you're helping to support their populations and create a more balanced ecosystem.
- In addition to helping your garden grow, pollinator gardens can also improve the health of nearby crops. By attracting beneficial insects to your garden, you create a natural barrier against harmful pests that can damage crops.
- Pollinator gardens are easy to create and maintain and can be tailored to fit any size or style of garden. Whether you have a small balcony or a large backyard, you can create a pollinator garden that is both beautiful and functional.

TO CREATE THE PERFECT POLLINATOR PATCH, I RESEARCHED AND LEARNED ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF CERTAIN PLANTS FOR EACH TYPE OF POLLINATOR.

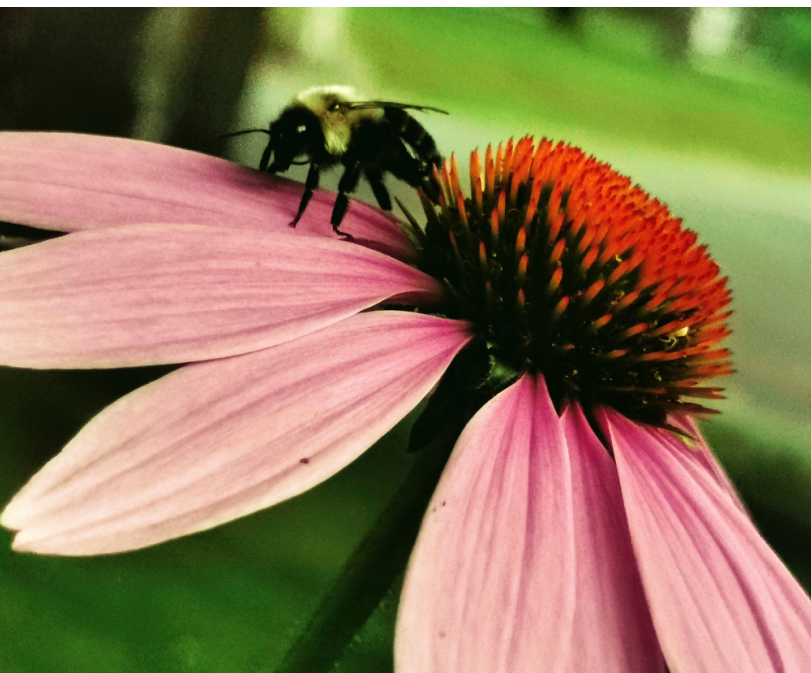
Bees, for example, are attracted to flowers with bright colors and intense fragrances, such as lavender and sunflowers. They also thrive on plants with a flat shape, like daisies, bee balm, and black-eyed Susan's. Did you know that bees are responsible for pollinating one-third of the food we eat?



On the other hand, butterflies are drawn to flowers with broad, shallow shapes, such as milkweed and coneflowers. They also love dill and parsley, which serve as host plants for their caterpillars. And for the hummingbirds, I added trumpet vine, cardinal flower, columbine, and salvia.



As you embark on creating your own pollinator patch, it's essential to consider the various factors that can affect the success of your garden.



- Research the specific pollinators in your area and the plants they are attracted to. This will help you choose the best plants for your garden and ensure that you are supporting local pollinators.
- Consider incorporating nesting habitats for bees and butterflies, such as bee houses or butterfly boxes. These structures provide shelter and a safe place for pollinators to lay their eggs.
- Don't be discouraged if your garden doesn't attract pollinators right away. It can take time for them to discover your new garden and for the plants to establish themselves.
- To further support pollinators, consider involvement in local conservation efforts or advocating for policies protecting pollinators and their habitats.

HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR POLLINATOR GARDEN



- Watering: Be sure to water your garden regularly, especially during dry spells. However, be careful not to overwater, as this can harm some plants.
- Pruning: Deadheading or pruning your plants can help encourage new growth and prolong the blooming season. Removing any diseased or damaged leaves and stems is also a good idea.

- Mulching: Adding organic mulch around your plants can help retain moisture in the soil, suppress weeds, and provide additional nutrients as it breaks down.
- Pest management: While pollinator gardens attract beneficial insects, there may also be some unwanted pests. Consider using natural pest control methods, such as companion planting or releasing beneficial insects like ladybugs.

