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Gardening for pollinators: Choosing plants to support pollinators A wide selection of plants and a reduction of pesticide use can help preserve our pollinators in landscapes and gardens.

Pollinators, including birds, mammals, bees, flies, beetles, butterflies and moths, are essential to the environment and our food supply. Pollinating more than 85 percent of the world's flowering plants, they contribute globally to "life as we know it." In fact, you can thank a pollinator for one out of three bites of food you eat.

Recent concerns about losses of pollinating insects have caused gardeners to wonder how to help our pollinators. Planting a diverse selection of plants and reduced pesticide use will all go a long way in preserving bees and other pollinators in our landscapes and gardens.



"Bee" intentional about plant selection - Pollinators are looking for two things in your garden - the nectar and pollen found in blooming plants. Choose plants - annuals, perennials, bulbs, trees and shrubs - that will provide food for your pollinators from early spring through late fall.

Group the same plants together - Try to plant at least one sq. yard 3' x 3' of the same plant together to make a pollinator attractor. But if you're short

on space planting just a few wildflowers or herbs in a planter or window box is all that's needed to provide more foraging habitat.

Deadhead flowers - Deadhead flowers to encourage more blooms to allow pollinators to get the pollen and nectar they need. If you are growing herbs or vegetables such as broccoli, harvest it but leave the plant intact. When you are done let it go to flower for the pollinators and leave it in the garden until the flowers are gone.

Provide a fresh water source - A sloping bird bath with stones for pollinators to stand on, a backyard waterfall, a pool, a dripping hose, almost any shallow water source will do.

Be careful when using pesticides, herbicides or other chemicals in your garden - Many chemicals are toxic to pollinators and have widespread effects which are detrimental to plants, beneficial insects and other native pollinators. Before you spray, identify the pest and use the correct insecticide. Or, you may find out you have a disease and need to use a different spray. Use organic or natural insecticides first.

Bonide Captain Jack's products control a large number of insects and is friendlier to pollinators. Spray late in the day or early morning when they are not as active. If using chemicals, use as directed on the container. More is not better! Never spray fruit or flowering trees when in bloom! The main thing is to always "Bee Smart!"

Appreciate the beauty of weeds - Dandelion, clover, milkweed, goldenrod and other flowering weeds are very important food sources for pollinators! Find an area in your landscaping to be a pollinator sanctuary. It could be along the back of your property line, fence row or even behind a shed. Let these plants grow and flower to provide food and shelter for pollinators.

Annuals that Attract Pollinators: Ageratum, Bachelor's Buttons, Borage, Calendula, Cosmos, Heliotrope, Lantana, Larkspur, Marigold, Milkweed, Nasturtium, Pentas, Petunia, Salvia, Sunflowers, Verbena and Zinnia.

Perennials that Attract Pollinators: Agastache, Allium, Aster, Bee Balm, Black-eyed Susan, Bleeding Heart, Butterfly Weed, Purple Coneflower, Daisy, Globe Thistle, Goldenrod, Hollyhock, Joe-Pye Weed, Lavender, Liatris, Lupine, Milkweed, Mint, Oregano, Penstemon, Phlox, Pincushion Flower, Plumbago, Yarrow, Sedum

Shrubs and Trees that Attract Pollinators: Caryopteris, Honeysuckle, Butterfly Bush, Lilac, Redbud, Spirea, Ornamental Plum, Viburnum

Our pollinators are busy at work for us, so we need to "Bee Smart" and help them!



What's Bugging You?

By Laurie

BEETLES & BAGWORMS

Japanese Beetles have emerged!

There are many options to control these bugs as they are easy to kill! Monitor your plants and hand pick the early ones as you see them. There are also many insecticidal sprays that work well. We carry **Bonide Eight** and **Bonide Japanese Beetle Killer**. Or for a more organic approach use **Bonide Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew**.



You can also use **Bonide Beetle Bagger Traps** but be sure that you place them as far away from your prize plants as possible since the traps will attract the

Beetles to them. If you have a plant that seems to attract Beetles every year, use **Bonide Systemic Insect** spray which stays in the plant's system. Since these beetles live 9 to 10 months of the year underground as grubs, you can apply a granular product, such as **Bonide Grub Beater** in early August. This controls the population for the next season.

BAGWORMS - This worm is found mainly on evergreen trees but can also be found on deciduous trees and shrubs. Since they tend to look like pinecones, they are sometimes overlooked. Check trees & evergreens during the year. If you find a bag, pick it off and destroy it. If they are too high to reach, you need to spray to protect the tree. Start to spray in late June to mid-July when the bagworms are still small. Use sprays such as **Bonide Bt** or **Captain Jack's Deadbug Brew**. After the bags are bigger they are harder to kill. The best solution is to use **Bonide Systemic Insect** spray which stays in the system of the plant.



Watering Basics

Watering your garden wisely results in healthier plants and saves money and time.

Water Less Often and Deeply - As much as possible, follow the golden rule of watering: Water deeply and less often - rather than shallow and often. If you water often, the roots stay where the moisture is at the surface. Watering deeper and less often encourages them to grow downward where the soil stays moister longer.

One Inch a Week - Most plants do best with approximately 1 inch of water a week. If you haven't had an inch of rain for a week, apply an inch of water from the hose or sprinkler. So how can you tell how much water you've applied? Set out an old cake pan, margarine tub, a shallow, flat container, or a rain gauge where the sprinkler will hit it.

No Wilting Allowed - By the time wilting has occurred, the plants are already stressed. And a wilted plant instantly becomes more susceptible to insect, disease, and other problems. Keep an eye on the soil and take note when it's hard or dry. Wiggle a stick into the soil, or use your built-in moisture meter as Laurie calls it (your finger) to check the moisture level in the soil.

Water Early in the Day - Right before sunrise is ideal. You'll avoid the heat of the day and prevent evaporation. Early watering also allows plants to dry off well before nightfall, when fungal diseases take root.

Water the Soil, Not the Plant - Avoid spraying plant foliage when watering as it makes them more prone to disease. Sometimes you'll need to use a sprinkler, and getting the leaves and flowers wet will be unavoidable. But when using a hose or watering can, water just the soil.

