

What are Pollinators?

Pollinators transfer pollen from plant to plant as they visit flowering plants and trees.

Pollinators include a variety of bees, butterflies, bats, birds, beetles and moths. The process of pollination is essential for fruit and seed production on which humans and wildlife rely.



Why be Concerned?

Pollinators are important to the reproductive success of over 75% of the world's flowering plants. They are also responsible for the production and growth of fruits and vegetables. We cannot overlook the fact that pollinators are responsible for many of the beautiful flowering plants and trees in our gardens. Pollinators help maintain a healthy, diverse and robust landscape, a great benefit for human health too!

By planting your own pollinator-friendly garden, you can provide habitat that supports and protects pollinators and their plants.

Other ways you can help include supporting your local farms by buying organically produced foods and flowers, and spreading the word about the importance of pollinators to friends and family members.



For more information on pollinators, visit:

Xerces Invertebrate Organization:
www.Xerces.org

Pollinator Partnership:
www.pollinator.org

APCC native pollinators:
apcc.org/our-work/education/nativeplant-initiative/



CAPE COD POLLINATOR GARDENS

*Establishing a Nectar & Pollen Source
for Native Cape Cod Pollinators*



www.friendsofmashpeenationalwildliferefuge.org



Friends of
Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge

The purpose of this brochure is to guide home gardeners in creating a garden that fosters habitat for pollinators and provides a visually appealing and sustainable landscape for your home. Our plant suggestions include both native and non-native plants that are pollinator-friendly and should be available locally at your favorite garden center. We hope you find this guide and resources helpful in creating your own backyard wildlife sanctuary!

Threats to Pollinators

Development, industrial agriculture and expansive lawns led to habitat loss and poor choices for pollinators to forage, reproduce and overwinter. Pesticides kill beneficial insects as well as targeted insects. Other threats are introduced pests, disease and changing climate.

Introducing nonnative, invasive plant species impacts pollinator populations by displacing native plants, which results in reduced nectar and pollen sources. Also, butterflies need specific native plants, called host plants, to nurture their young through all their growth cycles. Without essential native plants available, pollinators will decline.

How to Start Your Garden

- Start small, expand over time.
- Choose a site close to a water source.
- Select sunny spots in your yard for this garden. Most flowering plants need a minimum of 4-6 hours of sunlight per day.
- Purchase native plants; they are the best option for native pollinators.
- Start with a minimum of 3 plants that bloom in each season (spring, summer, fall). Expand and add more plants each year, based on season and colors.
- Select for a variety of colors and flower shapes. Diversity provides the best options for our native pollinators.
- Add annuals to fill in garden areas, add color and provide natural food sources. Cupea, Crocosmia, zinnia, salvia and lantana are all good choices.
- Eliminate use of pesticides (*you don't want to kill what you are trying to attract!*).

Some Favorite Plants to Start With

Bloom Season	Common Name <i>*native plants</i>	Flower Color
Spring	Eastern Columbine*	
Spring	Shadbush*	white
Spring	Heather	
Spring	Andromeda	white
Spring	Holly	white
Summer	Rose Milkweed*	
Summer	Narrow-leaf Mt. Mint*	white
Summer	Joe Pye Weed*	
Summer	White Beardtongue*	white
Summer	Butterfly weed*	
Summer	Anise Hyssop	
Summer	Northern Blazing Star*	
Fall	Tall Sunflower*	
Fall	Daisy Mum	
Fall	New England Aster*	
Fall	GoldenRod*	
Fall	Joe Pye Weed "Chocolate"	white

Scan the QR Code for
Upper Cape Specific
Butterfly Host Plant list

