

Planting for Pollinators: Create a Native Pollinator Garden

Small or large, it's an environmental game-changer.

Why Pollinator Gardens Matter

Pollinators like bees, butterflies, flies, and beetles are essential to our food supply and the health of native ecosystems—but their populations are in decline due to habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate stress. Even a small garden with native plants can provide critical food and habitat.

Simple Shifts That Make a Big Difference

- **Plant native species**—they're better suited for local pollinators.
- **Skip the pesticides**—they harm pollinators and pests alike.
- **Leave some bare soil**—70% of native bees nest underground.
- **Let it be messy**—dead stems and brush piles make great habitat.

Some Suggestions To Get Started (All available at the Upstate Spring Native Plant Sale)



Golden Alexander

Zizia aurea

Early-blooming and bright yellow, this one's a lifesaver for emerging pollinators. Supports black swallowtail caterpillars and attracts tiny beneficial wasps and flies.

Blazing Star

Liatris spicata

A tall, showy spike of purple flowers that butterflies absolutely adore. Great nectar source into late summer. Also draws native bees.



Black-eyed Susan

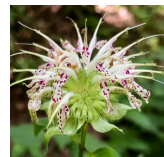
Rudbeckia hirta

Easy to grow and long-blooming. Loved by bees and butterflies, and provides seeds for birds. Host plant for checkerspot butterflies.

Wild Bergamot

Monarda fistulosa

Aromatic and a midsummer powerhouse for hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies. Its fragrant foliage makes it deer-resistant, too.



Swamp Sunflower

Helianthus angustifolius

Bold yellow blooms in fall when other flowers fade. Attracts bees, butterflies, and birds—especially goldfinches.

Remember

You don't have to plant a whole meadow. Even a container or small patch helps. Start where you can—and watch life return.

Photo credits: Golden Alexander photo by Stephan Bloodworth/wildflower.org. All other plant photos by Janie Marlow/namethatplant.net.

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