

# CREATE A POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY SPACE

## WHY ARE POLLINATORS IMPORTANT?

- One out of every three bites of food you eat exists because of the efforts of pollinators, including many fruits, vegetables, and seeds. Pollinators not only are necessary for our own food, but support the food and habitat of animals.
- Healthy ecosystems depend on pollinators. At least 75 percent of all the flowering plants on earth are pollinated by insects and animals! This amounts to more than 1,200 food crops and 180,000 different types of plants—plants which help stabilize our soils, clean our air, supply oxygen, and support wildlife.
- In the United States alone, pollination by honey bees contributed to over \$19 billion of crop production in 2010, while pollination by other insect pollinators contributed to nearly \$10 billion of crop production.

## POLLINATORS IN TROUBLE

Populations of bees and other pollinators are declining around the world. Some of the challenges they face are:

- Habitat Loss
- Non-Native Plant Species
- Pesticides
- Climate Change
- Parasites and Disease



## HOW TO HELP

Even small changes in our own backyards can help pollinators survive and thrive. Like all of us, these hard working creatures need food, water, and shelter. Tips to consider:

- Provide habitat for different pollinators by planting native flowers that bloom at different times. Nectar-rich flowers attract both insect pollinators and hummingbirds.
- Offer pollinators a drink! Place a shallow dish of water on your deck or window sill to help thirsty pollinators stay hydrated. By placing several semi-submerged stones in the water dish, you can provide pollinators with places to land so they can drink without running the risk of drowning.
- Leave the weeds! Many plants that are called weeds are actually very useful to pollinators.
- Limit the use of pesticides. Before using a pesticide, ask yourself: Are flowers in bloom or are pollinators active during the pesticide application? Are there alternatives to using the pesticide? Am I applying the pesticide according to the instructions? Remember, pollinators can be harmed if they consume nectar or pollen that has come into contact with pesticides. You can also help reduce the risk of exposure by applying pesticides at night when bees and other pollinators are inactive.
- Ensure that different types of pollinators visit your yard by planting flowers of different shapes, sizes, and colors. Planting flowers in clumps, rather than scattering single flowers throughout the yard, makes it easier for pollinators to locate their next meal.
- Nesting and sheltering sites are needed! Remember that different types of pollinators require different things. Some bees and pollinating beetles may use downed tree limbs and logs; many butterflies lay eggs and rear their young on plants; a small patch of bare ground might serve ground-nesting bees. Potential nesting sites include trees (both living and dead), shrubs, brush piles, bare ground, and bee boxes.

Source: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/pollinators/index.htm>



HELP BEES & BUTTERFLIES BY MAKING A SIMPLE...

# POLLINATOR WATERING STATION

All living things need water, and bees are no exception. As well as drinking it themselves, bees also gather water to take back to their hives and nests. Here, the bees use water to dilute honey, regulate humidity, feed larvae and cool the hive. And just as they communicate about the best places to gather nectar and pollen, returning bees also tell the others where to find water.

## SUPPLIES

### Included in the kit:

- Terra Cotta plant saucer (You can use any shallow dish)
- Black river rocks (you can use any rocks, marbles, glass beads)
- Clean water

## INSTRUCTIONS:

- Choose a nice place outside.
- Place a few large rocks in the saucer to give the bees safe places to land and drink.
- Add clean water and enjoy.
- **Want to paint your saucer?** Make sure to choose a non-toxic spray paint and let it dry completely before adding any rocks or water.



## ONLINE RESOURCES:

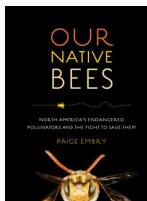
<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9289>

A Publication from the Oregon State Extension Master Gardeners: "Enhancing Urban and Suburban Landscapes to Protect Pollinators". Also includes supplemental garden designs featuring pollinator-friendly plants.

[pollinator.org](http://pollinator.org)

Pollinator Partnership works to promote the health of pollinators through conservation, education, and research. Their signature initiatives include the NAPPC (North American Pollinator Protection Campaign), National Pollinator Week, and the Ecoregional Planting Guides.

## CHECK ME OUT:



***Our native bees: North America's endangered pollinators and the fight to save them***  
by Paige Embry



***The bee-friendly garden: design an abundant, flower-filled yard that nurtures bees and supports biodiversity***  
by Kate Frey

