Planning your garden – “think like a pollinator.”

The three basics to a bountiful pollinator and native plant garden: Start with good soil—loamy, organic soil mixed with some gravelly sand; give it plenty of sun—south and west-facing gardens with 4-6 hours of sun a day do best and water it throughout the growing season for the first few years.

Go Native. Pollinators are “best” adapted to local, native plants, which often need less water than ornamentals.

Bee Bountiful. Plant big patches of each plant species (better foraging efficiency).

Bee Patient. It takes time for native plants to grow and for pollinators to find your garden, especially if you live far from wild lands.

Bee Bountiful. Plants to grow and for pollinators to find your garden, especially if you live far from wild lands.

Bee Homey. Make small piles of branches to attract butterfly chrysalis or moth cocoons. Provide hollow twigs, rotten logs, wood-boring beetle holes, stumps, old rodent burrows, fallen plant material, and bunchgrasses for nesting bees. Leave dead or dying trees for woodpeckers.

Bee Showy. Flowers should bloom in your garden throughout the growing season.

Bee a little messy. Most of our native bee species (70%) nest underground so avoid using weed cloth or heavy mulch.

Bee Patient. It takes time for native plants to grow and for pollinators to find your garden, especially if you live far from wild lands.

Bee Chemical Free. Pesticides and herbicides kill pollinators.

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Pollinator Plants for Starting Your Garden

Most plants are native to New England / Sorted by season / High pollinator value
Check our website for more detailed pollinator plant information:
http://www.hanovernh.org/biodiversity-committee

Avoid full-flowered cultivars of these plants. Choose single-flower types.

Spring Blooming Perennial Plants
Columbine: Aquilegia Canadensis (orange / yellow).
Indigo: Baptisia species. B. australis (blue).
Lupine: Lupinus perennis, native to NE. (pale blue).
Golden Alexanders: Zizia aurea, very early.

Summer Blooming Perennial Plants
Bee Balm: Monarda species. M. fistulosa (lavender), M. punctate.
Black-Eyed Susan: Rudbeckia species.
Coneflowers: Echinacea and Ratibida species.
Coreopsis species: C. lanceolata (yellow).
Indigo: Baptisia. B. tinctoria (yellow).
Lobelia species: L. siphilitica (blue), L. cardinalis (red).
Milkweed: Asclepias species. A. incarnata, A. tuberosa are not aggressive.
Mountain Mint: Pycnanthemum species.
Vervain: Verbena. V. hastata (blue), V. urticifolia (white).

Fall Blooming Perennial Plants
Goldenrod: Solidago species, S. caesia, S. nemoralis are not aggressive.
Sneezeweed: Helianthemum species. These don’t cause sneezing!

Annuals with Long Blooming Period & Pollinator Value (many are not native)
Alyssum, Bacopa, Bidens, Calendula, Cosmos, Euphorbias (spurge), Heliotrope, Marigolds (open types),
Lobelia, Osteospermum, Portulaca, Salvia and Verbena, annual sunflowers and Zinnia
Most herbs and Dusty Miller are good pollinator plants, if allowed to flower.

Prepared by Upper Valley Pollinator Partners.