



## **Resources about Native Plants for Pollinators**

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### **THERE ARE MANY POLLINATORS, MANY ARE NATIVE TO OUR AREA**

- 53 NJ butterflies
- 4000 native bees in north America
- 367 New Jersey Moths
- Other pollinators include wasps, beetles, flower/drone flies, ants, bats, etc.

### **WHY CHOOSE NATIVE PLANTS?**

- Native plants attract beneficial wildlife by providing the best source of food such as seeds and berries for all kinds of songbirds and other wildlife.
- Colorful plants provide nectar and pollen spring, summer and fall for a parade of butterflies, hummingbirds, bees and other pollinators as well as beneficial insects.
- Native plants also provide nesting places and cover for frogs, dragonflies, birds and other critters, many of which feed on insects.
- Using native plants helps preserve the balance and beauty of natural ecosystems.

### **POLLINATOR FRIENDLY PRACTICES**

- Use native plants since they are adapted to the local climate.
- Avoid modern hybrids, especially those with “doubled” flowers, since pollen, nectar and scent can be lost in the cultivation process.
- Plant a variety of flowers to bloom continually from early spring to early fall.
- Provide a variety of flower shapes and colors since different pollinators are attracted to different types of plants.
- Build a bee condo or leave dead trees or limbs to create nesting habitats for bees.
- Provide bare ground or a shallow bird bath, sprinkled w/ sea salt and kept moist, to create a source of water and minerals for pollinators
- Help pollinators find the plants they need by planting them in clumps rather than singly. Clustering plants also shortens the distances that pollinators need to travel.
- Include plants for caterpillars. They are surprisingly fussy eaters and require particular “host” plants. Caterpillars eat the foliage of their host plants but the average gardener won’t notice the damage until at least 10% of the leaves are affected.
- Avoid using pesticides if at all possible. Expect nibbled leaves if plants are a larval host.

### **RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- Rutgers Cooperative Extension County offices
- Incorporating Native Plants in Your Residential Landscape:  
<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1140/>
- Jersey-Friendly Yards: <https://www.jerseyyards.org/>

*Cooperating Agencies:* Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Boards of County Commissioners. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

- NJ Native Plant Society: <http://www.npsnj.org/>
- Native Plants For Pollinators And Beneficial Insects: Mid-Atlantic Region: <https://www.xerces.org/publications/plant-lists/native-plants-for-pollinators-and-beneficial-insects-mid-atlantic>
- New Jersey Pollinators: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/new-jersey/new-jersey-pollinators>
- Supporting Bees in Your Garden and on Your Farm: <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/FS1280/>
- Pollination Basics: <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/pollination-basics/>

#### **GARDENS TO VISIT:**

- Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve 1635 River Rd, New Hope, PA 18938  
<http://www.bhwp.org/>
- Mt. Cuba Center 3120 Barley Mill Road, Hockessin, DE 19707-  
<http://www.mtcubacenter.org/>
- Brooklyn Botanic Garden - 1000 Washington Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11238 -  
<http://www.bbg.org/>
- The New York Botanical Garden - 2900 Southern Blvd, Bronx, NY 10458 -  
<http://www.nybg.org/exhibitions/2013/native-plant-garden/>