



Habitat Gardening in Central New York

www.hgcny.org
www.ourhabitatgarden.org
hg.cny@verizon.net
(315) 487-5742

Pollinator Resources

*“Humankind needs to **act quickly** to ensure that the ancient pact between flowers and pollinators stays intact, to safeguard our food supply and to protect our environment for generations to come.”*
~ Diana Cox-Foster

HOW TO HELP BEES

- 1) **Provide flowers in a sunny area:** (see list on the back)
 - Plant at least 75% native plants
 - Mass flowers together in each of one or more areas
 - Diversity:
 - A variety of colors such as blue, purple, yellow, white
 - A variety of shapes
 - A succession of blooms throughout spring, summer, fall
- 2) **Provide nesting spaces and shelter:**
 - wood for nesting, bee houses, bare ground
 - overwintering areas – leave your yard a little “messy”
- 3) **Reduce pesticides / herbicides** - preferably pesticide-free!
- 4) **Display a Pollinator Habitat sign & sign the Pollinator Pledge:**
Purchase from Xerces www.xerces.org/bringbackthepollinators/
- 5) **Participate in pollinator citizen science projects**
- 6) **Get your neighbors and community involved**

CITIZEN SCIENCE

The Great Sunflower Project - www.greatsunflower.org
Safe Gardens for Pollinators -
www.greatsunflower.org/pesticide-detection
Bumble Bee Watch - www.bumblebeewatch.org/

COMMUNITY EXAMPLES

Seattle Pollinator Pathway – www.pollinatorpathway.com/
Pollination Guelph - www.pollinator.ca/guelph/
Bee City USA – www.beecityusa.org

BOOKS

Attracting Native Pollinators: Protecting North America’s Bees and Butterflies by The Xerces Society – **EXCELLENT RESOURCE!**

Bringing Nature Home: Using native plants to sustain wildlife in our gardens by Douglas Tallamy - Not bee-specific, but excellent foundation for understanding the role and importance of native plants

The following two publications can be purchased at www.pollinator.org/books.htm or **downloaded for free:**

Bee Basics: An introduction to our native bees–Beatriz Moisset et.al.
Bumble Bees of the Eastern United States - Sheila Colla et. al.

WEBSITES

An HGCNY garden: www.OurHabitatGarden.org - includes links to more info; www.OurHabitatGarden.org/creatures/bees.html includes information on bees specifically

The Xerces Society: www.xerces.org - Lots of information including:

- Pollinator Conservation Fact Sheets on many topics at www.xerces.org/fact-sheets/
- Resources for Gardens at www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation-gardens/
- Resources on Pesticides at www.xerces.org/pesticides/

The Pollinator Partnership: www.pollinator.org - includes

- BeeSmart phone app and Planting Guides for each eco-region at <http://pollinator.org/guides.htm>
- S.H.A.R.E. (Simply Have Areas Reserved for the Environment) at <http://pollinator.org/SHARE.htm>

The Pollinator Pyramid: bee-friendly-yard.blogspot.com – video

SOME RECOMMENDED NORTHEAST NATIVE PLANTS

(roughly categorized by season)

*** CAUTION * AVOID commercially available plants treated with pesticides even if labeled as “Bee-Friendly”! Buy pesticide-free plants grown organically or grow your own from organic seeds.**

For information on growing conditions for plants:

Leopold, Donald: *Native Plants of the Northeast*

Cullina, William: *Growing and Propagating Wildflowers*

Native Trees, Shrubs, & Vines

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: www.wildflower.org

In spring

Shrubs and trees

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*) or others

Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

Crabapple (*Malus coronaria*)

American plum (*Prunus americana*)

Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

Pussy willow (*Salix discolor*)

Lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)

Highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)

In summer

Shrubs and trees

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)

Bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*)

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) – NOTE: need a male for females

Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*) – NOTE: need a male for females

Native roses:

* Carolina rose (*Rosa carolina*)

* Virginia rose (*Rosa virginiana*)

* Swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*)

Allegheny blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*)

Thimbleberry (*Rubus odoratus*)

Vines

Hairy honeysuckle (*Lonicera hirsuta*)

Coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)

Herbaceous

Anise hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*) – very popular bee plant!

Milkweeds: (NOTE: Doubles as host plant for monarch caterpillars!)

* Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

* Butterflyweed (*A. tuberosa*) – Note: This is NOT butterfly bush (buddleia), an invasive non-native that is NOT recommended

* Common milkweed (*A. syriaca*)

* Poke milkweed (*A. exaltata*) (not the same plant as pokeweed)

Wild indigo (*Baptisia australis*)

Coreopsis (*Coreopsis*) – many varieties

Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) – avoid new cultivars

Joe-pye (*Eupatorium maculatum*) (or *E. purpureum* or *E. fistulosum*)

Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)

IMPORTANT: **NOT** the pollen-free varieties!

Woodland sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*) – good for part shade

Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Oswego tea (*Monarda didyma*)

Penstemon (*Penstemon digitalis*)

Clustered mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*)

Slender mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*)

Canada burnet – (*Sanguisorba canadensis*)

Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohimensis*) or (*T. virginiana*)

Vervain – (*Verbena hastata*) or (*V. stricta*)

Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) and (*I. pallida*) – bee favorites!

Note: Spreads enthusiastically but is extremely easy to pull out
Culver’s root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)

In fall (Note: Many plants listed for summer continue blooming.)

Herbaceous

Goldenrods (*Solidago*):

(NOTE: Ragweeds, not goldenrods are responsible for allergies!)

* Stiff goldenrod (*S. rigida*)

* Rough-stemmed goldenrod (*S. rugosa*) or cultivar ‘Fireworks’

* Wreath goldenrod (*S. caesia*) – good for shade

Asters such as:

(NOTE: Cultivars may not have the nectar pollinators need.)

* New England aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)

* New York aster (*Symphyotrichum novi-belgii*)