

Plant List

Many of these plants are host plants for various butterflies and moths and are noted with an (H).

Good perennial & biennial pollinator plants (look for native varieties) include:

Anise Hyssop, *Agastache foeniculum*
Black-eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia hirta* (H)
Butterfly Weed, *Asclepias tuberosa* (H)
Foxglove Beardtongue, *Penstemon digitalis*
Great Blue Lobelia, *Lobelia siphilitica*
Hollyhock, *Alcea rosea* (H)
Lance-leaf Coreopsis, *Coreopsis lanceolata*
Lead Plant, *Amorpha canescens* (H)
Meadow Blazing Star, *Liatris ligulistylis*
Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea* (H)
Rose Milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata* (H)
Smooth Blue Aster, *Symphyotrichum laeve* (H)
Spotted Bee Balm, *Monarda punctata*
Tall Larkspur, *Delphinium exaltatum*
White Indigo, *Baptisia alba*
Wild Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*
...and many more bee-utiful flowers!

Good annual pollinator plants:

Alyssum
Blanket Flower (H)
Cleome (H)
Cosmos
Dianthus
Evening primrose
Flax
Lantana
Marigolds
Mexican sunflower
Morning glory
Nasturtium
Poppy
Sunflower (H)
Snapdragon (H)
Verbena
Zinnia

Good herb pollinator plants:

Basil
Borage
Catnip
Cilantro
Dill (H)
Fennel (H)
Lavender
Oregano
Parsley (H)
Sweet Marjoram
Rosemary
Thyme

Want to learn more?

- Check out the Illinois Extension's Pollinator Pockets Program (www.extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/pollinator-pockets), which was the inspiration for our program. They have *lots* of great resources!
- Join the Door County Seed Library today. Membership is free! Seeds are free! Join and subscribe to our free monthly newsletter by clicking the Get Involved tab on our website: www.DoorCountySeedLibrary.org
- Plus, we give lots of growing and seed saving tips on our Door County Seed Library Facebook page.

About us

The Door County Seed Library is a collaborative community program of the Door County Master Gardeners Association that offers free seeds and educational programs. Find us at your local Door County Library branch and special events.

Let's grow together, Door County!



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Plant a Pollinator Patch!



You can make a difference! Did you know that more than two-thirds of the world's crop species are dependent on pollinators for reproduction? Pollinators also pollinate plants that provide food, nesting and shelter for wildlife.

In addition to bees, other important pollinators include butterflies, moths, beetles, hummingbirds, flies, and wasps. Unfortunately, pollinators are in decline for many reasons, including a loss of habitat.

How you can help It's as simple as planting a pollinator-friendly garden. It doesn't even need to be a very big garden – it can be a fairly small area!

Creating a small patch (25 square feet) of key plants in your landscape can give meaningful support to pollinators and the plant species that rely on them to reproduce.

Planning your Pollinator Patch

Your pollinator patch should provide food, water, and shelter for the pollinators. If you plant it, they will come! Here are some basic tips to get you started.

- **Flowers provide pollen and nectar as food for pollinators.** Additionally, some pollinators need specific plants that support certain stages of their life cycle, which may include them eating the plant. These are called "host plants" and are a great addition to pollinating gardens. It's OK if there are holes in the leaves!
- Opt for **native plants** whenever possible. Native plants support a greater diversity of species and have evolved over the years to develop a symbiotic relationship with pollinators and other native wildlife.
- Plant in **clumps of 3-5 plants** to provide enough food to support pollinators and plan for continuous bloom to provide pollen and nectar all season long.
- Provide **water and nesting sites.**
- Leave some plants undisturbed over winter as well as some leaves and plant debris scattered underneath bushes to **provide habitat.**
- **Cut down on chemical insecticides.** If you use insecticides, apply at night when pollinators are not actively foraging.
- **Avoid bug zappers;** they actually kill more beneficial bugs than pests.
- **Avoid using weed cloth barrier and heavy mulch** since some pollinators nest in the ground.

Easy-to-Grow Natives

The Door County Seed Library is pleased to offer these native seeds for your Pollinator Patch. We selected these core varieties because they are easy to grow from seed, highly recommended for home landscaping, not too tall, do not spread aggressively, present a nice variety of flower and foliage colors, and have interesting seed pods.

Blooms	Flower Color	Strat. *	Height	Soil	Common Name	Botanical Name
April-June	Red/yellow	C(60)	2 feet	Med to dry	Wild Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>
May-Aug	Yellow	C(30)	2 feet	Med-dry to dry	Lance-leaf Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>
June-July	White	C(30)	3-4 ft	Med to med-dry	Foxglove Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>
June-Aug	Orange	C(30)	2 feet	Med to dry	Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>
June-Aug	Pink	C(30)	4 feet	Wet to med	Rose Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>
June-Oct	Yellow	C(30)	2 feet	Med-wet to med-dry	Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>
July-Sept	Purple	None	2 feet	Med-dry to dry	Spotted Bee Balm	<i>Monarda punctata</i>
July-Sept	Purple	None	4 feet	Med-wet to med-dry	Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>
Aug-Oct	Purple-blue	None	4 feet	Med-wet to med-dry	Smooth Blue Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum leave</i>

* C (# of stratifying days) = cold, moist stratification needed for the number of days in parentheses

Tips on Growing Native Plants from Seed

Most natives are slower growing than annuals and can take two or more years before they bloom. During the first year or two, native plants often put most of their energy into establishing a strong root system. Remember, "The first year they sleep, the second year they creep, and the third year they leap!" Giving them time to establish themselves will result in stronger and healthier plants in the long run.

We offer several handouts on native seeds to help you establish your pollinator patch:

- Winter Seed Sowing
- Growing Natives from Seed
- Collecting Native Seeds

