



KENNEDY'S COUNTRY GARDENS

Rt 3A Scituate, MA 781-545-1266

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Inspiring Successful Gardens Since 1960

Plants for Pollinators

“Individuals can influence pollinator populations through choices they make when they farm a plot of ground, manage large tracts of public land, or plant a garden. Each of us can have a positive impact by providing the essential habitat requirements for pollinators including food, water, shelter, and enough space to allow pollinators to raise their young.”

~ Selecting Plants for Pollinators: A Regional Guide for Farmers, Land Managers, and Gardeners
North American Pollinator Protection Campaign
<http://www.pollinator.org/PDFs/EasternBroadleaf.Oceanic.r18.pdf>

Tips for Planting to Attract and Support Pollinators

- Plant in a sunny spot using sun-loving plants. Pollinators love the sun.
- Plant native, heirloom, and species plants. Native plants have developed a symbiotic relationship with native wildlife and require minimum water and care. Cultivars and modern hybrids are frequently pollenless or so modified from their original species that they are confusing to pollinators.
- Plant in clumps. Clusters of individual species attract more pollinators than scattered flowers and allow them to feed more efficiently.
- Plant for three-season color aiming for blooms from early spring to late fall and at least three species in bloom in each season.
- Plant many different colors, shapes, heights, and fragrances. Pollinators come in different sizes with different tongue lengths and are attracted to different plants.
- Provide fresh water. Natural and human-made water features such as running water, pools, ponds, and small containers of water provide drinking and bathing opportunities for pollinators.
- Provide shelter for nesting and overwintering. Leave some brush piles, stumps, leaf litter, and open sandy soil. Build or purchase a bee house to encourage solitary bees to nest on your property.
- Do not use pesticides, even organic.
- Along with bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds, there are many beneficial wasps, moths, flies, and beetles that help pollinate plants and control pests in your garden.

Perennials

- Aconitum (Monkshood) – bees
- Achillea (Yarrow) – butterflies, bees
- Actaea (Black Cohosh) – bees, butterflies
- Agastache (Hyssop) – hummingbirds
- Ajuga (Bugleweed) – hummingbirds

- Aquilegia (Columbine) – hummingbirds, bees, moths, butterflies
- Asclepias (Milkweed, Butterfly Weed) – butterflies, hummingbirds, flies, bees
- Astilbe (False Goat's Beard) – butterflies, hummingbirds
- Baptisia (False Blue Indigo) – butterflies, bees
- Centranthus (Red Valerian) – hummingbirds
- Chelone (Turtlehead) – butterflies, hummingbirds, bees
- Coreopsis – butterflies
- Crocosmia – bees, hummingbirds
- Delphinium (Larkspur) – butterflies, hummingbirds
- Dianthus (Sweet William) – butterflies, hummingbirds
- Dicentra (Bleeding Heart) – hummingbirds
- Digitalis (Foxglove) – butterflies, hummingbirds
- Echinacea (Coneflower) – bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, moths, beetles, hoverflies
- Eupatorium/Eutrochium (Joe-Pye Weed) – butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, flies, wasps, moths
- Gaillardia (Blanket Flower) – butterflies
- Gentiana (Bottle Gentian) – bees
- Geranium (Cranesbill) – bees, beetles, flies
- Helianthus (Sunflower) – bees, wasps, beetles, flies
- Hemerocallis (Daylily) – hummingbirds
- Iris – bees
- Knautia – butterflies
- Kniphofia (Torch Lily) – hummingbirds
- Lavandula (Lavender) – hummingbirds, bees
- Liatris (Gayfeather) – butterflies, hummingbirds, bees
- Lilium (Lily) – moths, hummingbirds
- Lobelia (Cardinal Flower) – butterflies, hummingbirds, bees
- Lobularia (Sweet Alyssum) – bees, hoverflies, flies, wasps
- Lupinus (Lupine) – butterflies, bees, beetles
- Monarda (Bee Balm) – bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, moths
- Nepeta (Catnip) – flies
- Oenothera (Evening Primrose) – moths
- Penstemon (Beardtongue) – hummingbirds
- Phlox – butterflies, hummingbirds, moths
- Physostegia (Obedient Plant) – hummingbirds
- Podophyllum (Mayapple) – moths
- Pycnanthemum (Mountain Mint) – butterflies, beetles
- Rudbeckia (Black-eyed Susan) – bees, butterflies, beetles, wasps, hoverflies
- Salvia (Meadow Sage) – hummingbirds, butterflies, bees
- Scabiosa (Pincusion Flower) – butterflies, hummingbirds, bees
- Scutellaria (Hooded Skullcap) – bees
- Sedum (Stonecrop) – butterflies, bees
- Solidago (Goldenrod) – butterflies, bees, beetles, flies, wasps
- Spiranthes (Ladies Tresses) – bees
- Symphyotrichum (Aster) – butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, beetles, moths
- Tradescantia (Spiderwort) – bees
- Verbena (Vervain) – bees, butterflies, flies
- Veronica – butterflies
- Viola (Violet) – bees, butterflies
- Yucca – moths

Bulb Plants

- Allium – bees
- Bluebells – bees
- Crocus – bees
- Daffodil – bees
- Fritillaria – bees
- Glory of the Snow – bees
- Hyacinth – bees
- Muscari – bees
- Siberian Squill – bees
- Snowdrop – bees

Herbs (if allowed to flower)

- Basil – bees
- Chives
- Cilantro – bees, hoverflies, wasps
- Garlic
- Mint
- Oregano – bees, butterflies
- Parsley

Annuals and Tropicals

- Cosmos – bees, butterflies, lacewings, pirate bugs
- Agapanthus – bees
- Ageratum – butterflies
- Alyssum – butterflies
- Diascia – butterflies
- Fuchsia – hummingbirds
- Gazania – butterflies
- Heliotrope – butterflies
- Lantana – butterflies
- Marigold – butterflies
- Morning Glory – butterflies, hummingbirds
- Nasturtium – butterflies
- Nicotiana – butterflies, hummingbirds
- Night Blooming Jasmine – moths
- Orchid – flies
- Petunia – butterflies, hummingbirds
- Queen Anne's Lace – flies
- Salvia – butterflies, hummingbirds
- Snapdragon – bees
- Sunflower – bees, butterflies
- Verbena – butterflies, hummingbirds
- Viola – butterflies
- Zinnia – bees, butterflies

Trees, Shrubs, Roses, and Vines

- Acer (Maple) – bees
- Amelanchier (Serviceberry) – hummingbirds
- Arctostaphylos uva-ursi (Bearberry) – bees
- Betula (Birch) – butterflies
- Buddleia (Butterfly Bush) – butterflies, hummingbirds
- Campsis (Trumpet Vine) – hummingbirds, bees
- Caryopteris (Blue Beard) – butterflies
- Cephalanthus (Buttonbush) – bees, butterflies, moths
- Cercis (Eastern Redbud) – bees
- Clethra (Sweet Pepperbush) – butterflies
- Cornus (Dogwood) – butterflies, bees
- Cotoneaster – butterflies
- Fragaria (Strawberry) – bees
- Hibiscus (Rose of Sharon) – hummingbirds
- Kalmia (Mountain Laurel) – bees
- Ligustrum (Privet) – butterflies
- Lonicera (Honeysuckle) – moths, hummingbirds
- Oxydendrum (Sourwood) – bees
- Philadelphus (Mockorange) – butterflies
- Physocarpus (Ninebark) – bees, butterflies
- Potentilla (Cinquoil) – butterflies
- Rosa (Rose) – bees
- Rhododendron (Azalea) – hummingbirds
- Rubus (Blackberry, Raspberry) – bees, butterflies
- Salix (Willow) – butterflies, bees
- Sambucus (Elderberry) – bees, beetles, flies
- Spiraea (Spirea) – butterflies
- Syringa (Lilac) – butterflies
- Vaccinium (Blueberry) – bees
- Viburnum – butterflies
- Weigela – hummingbirds
- Wisteria – butterflies

Weeds

- Clover – bees
- Dandelions – an important source of early spring nectar for many pollinators!
- Thistle (native) – butterflies, bees

Information compiled from The Old Farmer's Almanac, the National Pollinator Garden Network, the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, and the Xerxes Society.

**For more gardening information see our website:
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