



Habitat Gardening in Central New York

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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 be pesticide-free!
- 4) **Display a Pollinator Habitat sign:**
Purchase at <http://www.xerces.org/nrcs-pollinator-habitat-sign/>
- 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.
Insects and Gardens by Eric Grissell
Bees, Wasps, and Ants by Eric Grissell Note: These books don’t focus on native plants, but excellent info on insects

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/
- Conservation Resources for Northeast at www.xerces.org/pollinators-northeast-region/
- 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 Million Pollinator Garden Challenge
<http://millionpollinatorgardens.org/>

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*) **NOT** 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 ohiensis*) 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*)

Golden alexander (*Zizia aurea*)

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

Herbaceous

Goldenrods (*Solidago*) such as:

(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*)