



## Habitat Gardening in Central New York

www.hgcny.org  
www.facebook.com/hgcny  
www.ourhabitatgarden.org  
info@hgcny.org  
(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:**
  - bare ground, wood (snags, logs) (*preferable to manmade bee houses*)
  - overwintering areas; leave your yard a little “messy”
- 3) **Reduce pesticides / herbicides** – preferably pesticide-free!
- 4) **Display a Pollinator Habitat sign:**  
Purchase at [www.xerces.org/nrcs-pollinator-habitat-sign/](http://www.xerces.org/nrcs-pollinator-habitat-sign/)
- 5) **Participate in pollinator citizen science projects** (below)
- 6) **Encourage neighbors and your community to join in!**

### CITIZEN SCIENCE

How many bees are there? Help find out by participating in these Citizen Science projects!

**The Great Sunflower Project** - [www.greatsunflower.org](http://www.greatsunflower.org)

**Bumble Bee Watch** - [www.bumblebeewatch.org/](http://www.bumblebeewatch.org/)

### COMMUNITY EXAMPLES

Seattle Pollinator Pathway – [www.pollinatorpathway.com/](http://www.pollinatorpathway.com/)

Pollination Guelph - [www.pollinator.ca/guelph/](http://www.pollinator.ca/guelph/)

Bee City USA – [www.beecityusa.org](http://www.beecityusa.org)

### BOOKS

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

You can download FREE PDFs of these excellent publications (or purchase) at [www.pollinator.org/books.htm](http://www.pollinator.org/books.htm):

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

Note: These books by Eric Grissell have good info on insects:  
*Insects and Gardens* and also *Bees, Wasps, and Ants*

### Caring for Our Piece of the Earth DISCUSSION COURSE

You can download this FREE 6-session discussion course at [www.hgcny.org/course](http://www.hgcny.org/course). Session 4 has lots of info on pollinators.

### WEBSITES

**An HGCNY garden:** [www.OurHabitatGarden.org](http://www.OurHabitatGarden.org) - includes links to more info; [www.OurHabitatGarden.org/creatures/bees.html](http://www.OurHabitatGarden.org/creatures/bees.html) includes information on bees specifically

**The Xerces Society:** [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org) - **Lots of info** including:

- Pollinator Conservation Fact Sheets on many topics at [www.xerces.org/fact-sheets/](http://www.xerces.org/fact-sheets/)

- Conservation Resources for Northeast at [www.xerces.org/pollinators-northeast-region/](http://www.xerces.org/pollinators-northeast-region/)

- Pesticides in Your Garden: [www.xerces.org/pesticides-in-your-garden/](http://www.xerces.org/pesticides-in-your-garden/)

**The Pollinator Partnership:** [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org) - includes

- BeeSmart phone app and Planting Guides for each eco-region at [pollinator.org/guides](http://pollinator.org/guides)

- S.H.A.R.E. (Simply Have Areas Reserved for the Environment) at [pollinator.org/share](http://pollinator.org/share)

**The Million Pollinator Garden Challenge**

[millionpollinatorgardens.org/](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*

Cullina, William: *Native Trees, Shrubs, & Vines*

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)

**NOTE: We recommend planting SPECIES rather than CULTIVARS**

### **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*)

### **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 (aka 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*)

**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*)

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

Asters such as:

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

\* New England aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*)

\* New York aster (*Symphotrichum novi-belgii*)