Native Plant Pollinator Garden Templates
Sunny & Dry Garden for Pollinators

These plants were selected for their ability to withstand drought in sunny locations, and for their pollinator value.

**Featured Pollinator:**
*American Lady*  
*Vanessa virginiensis*

American lady butterflies nectar on coneflowers, milkweed, and many other native species. But they lay eggs mainly on pussytoes (*Antennaria* species), a lovely groundcover. Caterpillars hide during the day in silky enclosures they create from the silvery leaves, coming out at night to feed.

Mountain Mint*  
*(Pycnanthemum muticum)*

The silvery flowers are extremely attractive to butterflies, bees, and other pollinators from July through September. A great spreader with minty scent.

Threadleaf Coreopsis*  
*(Coreopsis verticillata)*

The cheery yellow flowers on delicate foliage last for months beginning in July. Some native bees rely on coreopsis pollen to provision their nests.

Smooth Blue Aster*  
*(Aster laevis)*

This plant is short (for an aster), growing two to three feet with long-lasting lavender blue flowers that feed bumblebees and others late in the season.

Hollow Joe-Pye  
*(Eutrochium fistulosum)*

You and the butterflies will love the tall-growing dusty purple flower clusters of this “weed” in your yard. This pollinator magnet also draws bees and other insects. When it reseeds, you’ll have plenty to share.

Purple Coneflower*  
*(Echinacea purpurea)*

Coneflower is easy to grow and its purple blooms are popular with people and pollinators. When it reseeds, you’ll have plenty to share.

Red Chokeberry*  
*(Aronia arbutifolia)*

This tall, narrow deciduous shrub has red berries for birds and abundant flowers that provide an important food source for early-emerging pollinators.

Moss Phlox  
*(Phlox subulata)*

This is a short growing, front-of-the-bed plant with lots of spring color. Its early blooms attract bee flies, long-tongued bees, small butterflies and skippers.

More Info on Bee City:
[https://livegreenhoward.com/land/pollinators/](https://livegreenhoward.com/land/pollinators/)
Alternates for selected species

Mountain Mint
Wild Bergamot* Monarda fistulosa
Shrubby St. John’s wort* Hypericum prolificum

Threadleaf Coreopsis*
Bluestem Goldenrod* Solidago caesia

Smooth Blue Aster*
Butterfly Milkweed*
Asclepias tuberosa
Oxeye sunflower Heliopsis helianthoides

Hollow Joe-Pye
Foxglove Beardtongue Penstemon digitalis
Common Milkweed* Asclepias syriaca
Blazing Star Liatris spicata

Purple Coneflower*
Brown-eyed Susan* Rudbeckia triloba
Aromatic Aster* Symphyotrichum oblongifolium

Red Chokeberry*
New Jersey Tea* Ceanothus americanus
Winterberry Holly Ilex verticillata

Threadleaf Coreopsis*

Why Plant Natives?

ENJOY A BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE
The many textures, colors and habits of native plants can be combined in attractive designs. Choose a natural-looking or more formal style.

PRESERVE MARYLAND’S BIODIVERSITY
Many bees provision their nests with pollen from native plants, and butterflies and moths eat native species at the larval stage. Birds, in turn, feed an abundance of these caterpillars to their young. Going native supports this whole food web.

IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT
Conventional gardens often employ fertilizers, pesticides, supplemental water, and fossil-fuel-using machinery – resulting in poor soil health, erosion, and polluted stormwater runoff.

How You Can Help Pollinators

PROVIDE FOOD
Plant a succession of native blooms of different shapes, sizes and colors from spring to fall. Choose native species over cultivars when possible.
Plant densely, using native groundcovers as “green mulch,” leaving some bare soil for the 70 percent of native bees that nest in the ground.
Plant in drifts of 3 or more plants to be noticed by pollinators.

PROVIDE WATER SOURCES
Include mud-puddling areas for butterflies. (Refresh water often to deter mosquitoes.)

PROVIDE SHELTER
Add nesting sites for bees, caterpillars and others by leaving fallen leaves where possible and incorporating dead wood (stalks, logs, stumps) into the garden.

SAFEGUARD POLLINATOR HABITAT
Control invasive plants, and avoid pesticides when possible.

Photo Credits:
https://tinyurl.com/y9hvguy2n
**Sunny & Moist Garden for Pollinators**

*Featured Pollinator: Leafcutter Bee/Megachile*

Bees in this family carry pollen on the underside of their fuzzy abdomens rather than their legs. They use their large mouth parts to collect their preferred nesting material—leaves! A handful of Megachile species are specialists and feed only on a particular genus of plants. Most use a variety of plants for nectar and pollen. Leaves from the redbud tree make excellent nesting material.

### Obedient Plant
**Physostegia virginiana**

Easy to establish and maintain, this plant has snapdragon-like, pink to lilac flowers that bloom throughout summer, providing nectar for butterflies.

### Common Bluets*
**Houstonia caerulea**

This low-growing plant blooms with delicate blue flowers in the spring. Flowers attract small butterflies, little carpenter bees, and green metallic bees.

### Butterfly Milkweed*
**Asclepias tuberosa**

Long-blooming, deer-resistant plant, and larval host to the monarch caterpillar. Its vibrant orange flowers are a great nectar source for bees and butterflies.

### Eastern Columbine
**Aquilegia canadensis**

Striking red and yellow flowers bloom in late spring, attracting hummingbirds and insects. Larval host to columbine duskywing and spring azure butterfly.

### Eastern Redbud
**Cercis canadensis**

An important early food source for pollinators, this small tree is a great substitute for non-native cherry trees. Does well in full sun to part shade.

### Helen's Flower*
**Helenium autumnale**

Rosy-purple spiky flowers bloom in summer, attracting bees, butterflies, hummingbird moths and hummingbirds.

### Blazing Star*
**Liatris spicata**

This low growing grass-like plant is a miniature member of the iris family. It is a great substitute for liriope and can form thick stands over time.

### Blue-Eyed Grass
**Sisyrinchium angustifolium**

This low growing grass-like plant is a miniature member of the iris family. It is a great substitute for liriope and can form thick stands over time.

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### Bloom Times:

- **OP**: 6 plants
- **CB**: 40 plants
- **BM**: 5 plants
- **EC**: 5 plants
- **ER**: 1 plant
- **HF**: 6 plants
- **BS**: 5 plants
- **BEG**: 13 plants

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* Deer-resilient, resists or withstands some browsing.

**Note:** This design is flexible based on available space. To make this garden smaller, reduce the number of plants per species.

Alternates for selected species

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<td>Plantain-leaved Pussytoes</td>
<td>Swamp Milkweed*</td>
<td>Sundrops</td>
<td>Witch Hazel</td>
<td>Coastal Plain</td>
<td>Blue Wild Indigo*</td>
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<td>Packera aurea</td>
<td>Antennaria plantaginifolia</td>
<td>Asclepias incarnata</td>
<td>Oenothera fruticosa</td>
<td>Hamamelis virginiana</td>
<td>Joe-Pye Eutrochium dubium</td>
<td>Baptisia australis</td>
<td>Carex stricta</td>
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<td>Green and Gold*</td>
<td>Garden Phlox</td>
<td>Foxglove</td>
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<td>Wild Bergamot*</td>
<td>Cardinal Flower</td>
<td>Soft Rush</td>
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<td>Chrysogonum virginianum</td>
<td>Phlox paniculata</td>
<td>Beardtongue</td>
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<td>Lobelia cardinalis</td>
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**PREVENT MARYLAND’S BIODIVERSITY**
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How You Can Help Pollinators

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**PROVIDE WATER SOURCES**
Include mud-puddling areas for butterflies. (Refresh water often to deter mosquitoes.)

**PROVIDE SHELTER**
Add nesting and overwintering sites for cavity-nesting bees, caterpillars and others by leaving fallen leaves where possible and incorporating dead wood (stalks, logs, stumps).

**SAFEGUARD POLLINATOR HABITAT**
Control invasive plants, and avoid pesticides when possible.

Photo Credits:
https://tinyurl.com/y9hvgu2n
Part Sun & Dry Garden for Pollinators

These plants were selected for their ability to withstand drought in part-sun locations, and for their pollinator value.

New York Ironweed*
Vernonia noveboracensis
An adaptable native with deep purple flowers, ironweed grows to about four feet in dry conditions and is a magnet for swallowtail butterflies.

Black-Eyed Susan*
Rudbeckia hirta
This black-eyed Susan blooms like crazy, is easy to grow and reseeds with abandon. Feeds specialist bees and caterpillars of wavy-lined emerald moths.

Coral Bells*
Heuchera americana
A groundcover for part sun conditions, coral bells has attractive foliage with airy flower panicles that draw bees and hummingbirds.

Little Bluestem*
Schizachyrium scoparum
Valued for its blue-green color, it turns beautiful shades of copper and crimson after first frost. Caterpillars of several skippers feed on the foliage. Songbirds eat the seeds.

Gray Goldenrod*
Solidago nemoralis
This long-blooming goldenrod provides nectar and pollen, supporting a diversity of pollinators late in the season.

Sourwood
Oxydendrum arboretum
This native specimen tree has four-season interest and grows slowly to 25' (average). Flowers are attractive to native bees. Host plant for some moth species.

Lyreleaf Sage*
Salvia lyrata
Lyreleaf sage is adaptable to varying conditions. The blueish to lavender tubular flowers attract hummingbirds and insects in spring. Host to five butterfly and moth species.

NYI 5 plants
BES 9 plants
CB 9 plants
LBS 8 plants
GG 6 plants
S 1 plant
LLS 14 plants

Bloom Times:
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Features Pollinator:
American Bumblebee
Bombus americanus

More Info on Bee City:
https://livegreenhoward.com/land/pollinators/

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Alternates for selected species

New York Ironweed*  
Spotted Joe-Pye  
Eutrochium maculatum  
Purple Coneflower*  
Echinacea purpurea

Black-Eyed Susan*  
Ohio Spiderwort  
Tradescantia ohiensis  
Yellow Indigo*  
Baptisia tinctoria

Coral Bells*  
Heath Aster*  
Symphyotrichum ericoides  
Robin’s Plantain*  
Erigeron pulchellus

Little Bluestem*  
Woodland Sedge*  
Carex blanda  
Tufted Hairgrass*  
Deschampsia cespitosa

Gray Goldenrod*  
Narrowleaf Mountainmint*  
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium  
Woodland Sunflower  
Helianthus divaricatus

Sourwood  
Sweetspire*  
Itea virginica  
Flowering Dogwood*  
Cornus florida

Lyreleaf Sage*  
Aromatic Aster*  
Symphyotrichum oblongifolium  
Moss Phlox  
Phlox subulata

The following plant species can be alternately combined to create a pollinator garden in part-sun, dry conditions. For more information about native plants and other pollinator resources, visit: livegreenhoward.com/land/pollinators/

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SAFEGUARD POLLINATOR HABITAT  
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Photo Credits:  
https://tinyurl.com/y9hvgu2n
Part Sun and Moist Garden for Pollinators

These plants were selected for their ability to withstand moist conditions in partial sun, and for their pollinator value.

**Cutleaf Bleeding Heart***
*Dicentra eximia*
Early bloomer for pollinators including just-returning hummingbirds. Prefers full to part shade in average to moist soils.

**Hairy Beardtongue***
*Penstemon hirsutus*
Attractive to bees, bumblebees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. An easy-to-grow and trouble-free plant. Rated “high” in pollinator value by USDA NRCS.

**Wild Bergamot***
*Monarda fistulosa*
Low-maintenance. Long-tongued bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds sip nectar from the flowers. Rated “very high” in pollinator value by USDA NRCS.

**Swamp Milkweed***
*Asclepias incarnata*
Provides nectar for bees and butterflies. Is a host plant for the monarch butterfly. Rated “very high” in pollinator value by USDA NRCS.

**Virginia Mountain Mint***
*Pycnanthemum virginianum*
Extremely hardy and easy to grow. The leaves are very fragrant. Long bloom time. Rated “very high” in pollinator value by USDA NRCS.

**Cardinal Flower***
*Lobelia cardinalis*
Irresistible to hummingbirds and butterflies. Prosper in part sun (moist soils) or in sun (wetter soils). Rated “high” in pollinator value by USDA NRCS.

**New England Aster***
*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*
Majestic in fall with large purple daisies. Flowers supply valuable late-season nectar for migrating monarch butterflies. Rated “high” in pollinator value by USDA NRCS.

**Showy Goldenrod***
*Solidago speciosa*
Valuable late-season nectar and pollen for native bees, honeybees, butterflies, moths and beetles. Rated “high” in pollinator value by USDA NRCS.

**Spotted Geranium***
*Geranium maculatum*
Beautiful pinkish-purple showy flowers in spring. Bees and syrphid flies are most common pollinators.

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Featured Pollinator:
**Hummingbird clearwing moth***
*Hemaris thysbe*
Often mistaken for tiny hummingbirds, these moths visit the same flowers as their namesake birds. The long proboscis makes this insect a perfect pollinator for deep tubular flowers, such as those of wild bergamot. Our beautiful native coral honeysuckle vine feeds hummingbird moth caterpillars, who overwinter in the fallen leaves below.
Alternates for selected species

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Photo Credits: https://tinyurl.com/y9hvgu2n
Shade Garden for Pollinators

**Featured Pollinator:**

*Ruby Throated Hummingbird*  
*Archilochus colubris*

Loves to feed on many of our shade pollinator garden selections like white turtlehead, spotted geranium, great blue lobelia and cutleaf bleeding heart. These hummingbirds make beautiful thimble-sized nests and are expert flyers. They can even fly backwards!

These plants were selected for their shade tolerance and their pollinator value.

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**Serviceberry**  
*Amelanchier canadensis*

A wonderful spring bloomer with edible berries. This plant supports mining and sweat bees, and is great for height and structure in the garden.

**Fetterbush**  
*Eubotrys racemosa*

This plant is great for shade and is deer resistant. Bees and butterflies visit the flowers. Beautiful evergreen winter foliage in an array of maroons and purples.

**Sweetspire**  
*Itea Virginica*

Easy-to-grow shrub and host plant for the American holly azure. Also visited by bees and other butterflies. Its creamy white, bottlebrush flower opens in spring. Reds and maroon foliage in fall.

**Great Blue Lobelia**  
*Lobelia siphilitica*

Striking blue summer flowers support hummingbirds native bees, bumblebees and sweat bees. It often reseeds in the garden over time and likes moist soil.

**Dwarf Crested Iris**  
*Iris cristata*

Spring ephemeral bloomer that supports hummingbirds and bees. It’s a low grower filling in the ground layer of your pollinator garden. Good for wet areas.

**Spotted Geranium**  
*Geranium maculatum*

Supports butterflies and many native bees. Easy to grow and spreads as a medium-height groundcover. Crushed leaves emit odor that repels biting insects.

**Turtlehead**  
*Chelone glabra*

A summer bloomer with white flowers to attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Host for endangered Baltimore checkerspot and the buckeye. Does well in moist soil.

**Cutleaf Bleeding Heart**  
*Dicentra eximia*

A lovely early spring flower that supports hummingbirds, butterflies and long-tongued bees. It often dies back in the summer heat and may show a regeneration of leaves in the fall.

**White Wood Aster**  
*Eurybia divaricata*

This easy-to-grow plant has attractive basal leaves and a pretty white fall bloom. It is a late-season food source for butterflies and bees, and spreads as a groundcover.

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**Bloom Times:**

- **April:** Serviceberry  
- **May:** Great Blue Lobelia  
- **June:** Sweetspire, Dwarf Crested Iris  
- **July:** Spotted Geranium  
- **August:** Turtlehead, Cutleaf Bleeding Heart  
- **September:** White Wood Aster  
- **October:** Fetterbush

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**PRESERVE MARYLAND’S BIODIVERSITY**
Many bees provision their nests with pollen from native plants, and butterflies and moths eat native species at the larval stage. Birds, in turn, feed an abundance of these caterpillars to their young. Going native supports this whole food web.

**IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT**
Conventional gardens often employ fertilizers, pesticides, supplemental water, and fossil-fuel-using machinery – resulting in poor soil health, erosion, and polluted stormwater runoff.

## How You Can Help Pollinators

**PROVIDE FOOD**
Plant a succession of native blooms of different shapes, sizes and colors from spring to fall. Choose native species over cultivars when possible. Plant densely, using native groundcovers as “green mulch,” leaving some bare soil for the 70 percent of native bees that nest in the ground. Plant in drifts of 3 or more plants to be noticed by pollinators.

**PROVIDE WATER SOURCES**
Include mud-puddling areas for butterflies. (Refresh water often to deter mosquitoes.)

**PROVIDE SHELTER**
Add nesting sites for bees, caterpillars and others by leaving fallen leaves where possible and incorporating dead wood (stalls, logs, stumps) into the garden.

**SAFEGUARD POLLINATOR HABITAT**
Control invasive plants, and avoid pesticides when possible.

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Photo Credits: [https://tinyurl.com/y9hvgu2n](https://tinyurl.com/y9hvgu2n)
Wet Garden for Pollinators

Featured Pollinator:

**Variegated fritillary caterpillar**

_Euptoieta claudia_

As caterpillars, some fritillary butterfly species have evolved to eat only violets. Though variegated fritillaries can have a more varied diet, in our area violets are their mainstay. Unlike the great spangled and meadow fritillaries, which overwinter as larvae, variegated fritillaries head south when temperatures dip.

**Shojima Button Bush**

_Cephalanthus occidentalis_

You’ll find a midsummer party on the globe-shaped flowers, where butterflies and bumblebees gather among small native bees. Host plant for the royal walnut moth.

**Hollow Joe-Pye**

_Eutrochium fistulosum_

A dizzying array of butterflies and bees visit the flowers. Caterpillars of more than 40 species eat the leaves, and twig-nesting bees can lay eggs in cut stalks.

**Swamp Milkweed**

_Asclepias incarnata_

Watch monarchs, bumblebees, and other pollinators sip from pink flowers that pop in July. Monarch caterpillars eat the leaves. A good milkweed for small gardens.

**Tussock Sedge**

_Carex stricta_

Dense, bright green tussocks host butterfly and moth caterpillars and provide shelter and overwintering areas for pollinators and other wildlife.

**Marsh Marigold**

_Caltha palustris_

Glossy foliage colonizes the ground all season following sunny spring blooms that feed halictid bees and flower flies, important pollinators.

**Common Blue Violet**

_Viola sororia_

Spring-blooming groundcovers, violets host fritillary butterfly caterpillars. Violet miner bees specialize on the pollen of violets to feed their young.

**Blue Mistflower**

_Conoclinium coelestinum_

Soft purple blooms burst forth like clouds just as other flowers start to wane, providing much-needed fuel for migrating butterflies and late-season bees.

These plants were selected for their suitability in a wet environment and for their pollinator value.

### Bloom Times:

- **S**: Apr 1 plant
- **HJP**: 4 plants
- **SM**: 6 plants
- **TS**: 6 plants
- **MM**: 10 plants
- **CBV**: 16 plants
- **BM**: 5 plants

**Note:**
This design is flexible based on available space. To make this garden smaller, reduce the number of plants per species.

* Deer-resilient, resists or withstands some browsing.

More Info on Bee City:

[https://livegreenhoward.com/land/pollinators/](https://livegreenhoward.com/land/pollinators/)
Why Plant Natives?

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PROVIDE SHELTER
Add nesting and overwintering sites for cavity-nesting bees, caterpillars and others by leaving fallen leaves where possible and incorporating dead wood (stalks, logs, stumps).

SAFEGUARD POLLINATOR HABITAT
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Photo Credits:
https://tinyurl.com/y9hvgu2n

The following plant species can be alternately combined to create a pollinator garden in wet conditions. For more information about native plants and other pollinator resources, visit: livegreenhoward.com/land/pollinators/