

# Help Make Hamilton a Pollinator Paradise!

Help Build the Pollinator Network across the City of Hamilton!

## We Need to Support Pollinators!

- ▶ Pollinators like wild bees, butterflies and other insects and small animals transfer pollen from one plant to another, allowing plants to produce fruit and seeds that grow into new plants.
- ▶ Three quarters of the world's flowering plants rely on pollinators to reproduce, including about a third of the food we eat!
- ▶ However, pollinators are threatened by habitat loss, urban sprawl, pesticides, lack of food sources and climate change, and many of our pollinator populations are in trouble.
- ▶ We need to act now to save our pollinators and the ecosystems that rely on them, and that we rely on too!

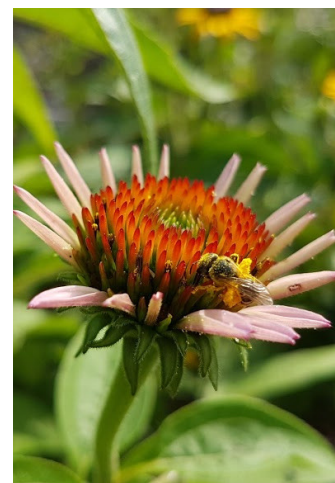
## The Dos and Don'ts of Pollinator-Friendly Gardening:

### DO

- ✓ Grow native plants! Plant them in a garden, on your balcony or in a pot!
- ✓ Be sure to give the pollinators time to emerge. Leave the leaves in the garden until weather has been consistently warm
- ✓ Leave bare soil for ground-nesting bees

### DON'T

- ✗ Plant invasive plants
- ✗ Use pesticides or herbicides
- ✗ Remove leaves and twigs from your garden in the fall as they provide nesting and overwintering habitat for pollinators



### Natives, Exotics & Invasives What's the Difference?

**Natives:** Plants that have been growing in this area for thousands of years

**Exotics:** Plants from another part of the world that have been introduced by humans

**Invasives:** Exotic plants that damage ecosystems by excluding native plants

### Are they good for pollinators?

NO      SOMETIMES      YES



## Some Top Plants for Pollinators

### SUN

- ▶ Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
- ▶ Hairy Beardtongue (*Penstemon hirsutus*)
- ▶ Black Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- ▶ Pale Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*)
- ▶ Stiff Goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*)



### SHADE

- ▶ Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
- ▶ Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)
- ▶ Zigzag Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*)
- ▶ False Solomon's Seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*)



Don't forget that native shrubs and trees are great for pollinators too! Consider planting a black chokeberry, common snowberry or other shrubs in your pollinator garden! Check out our website for more examples of native trees and shrubs.

Visit <https://www.hamiltonpollinatorparadise.org> for our full toolkit and more resources!

# How to Create a Pollinator Garden



## Step 1: Choose a Site

Sunny spots are ideal for pollinator nesting habitat but shade gardens can support pollinators too. Pick a spot close to a **water** source, a **size** that you can maintain (it's always best to start small) and in a **location** that is accessible but won't interfere with other activities. Pay attention to soil type and moisture levels.

## Step 2: Design Your Garden

Try to include:

- ✓ Plants! (See Step 3)
- ✓ Patches of bare ground (for ground-nesting bees - most of our over 350 kinds of wild bees nest in the ground)
- ✓ Logs, leaf piles and/or bundles of hollow stems for habitat for non-ground nesting species
- ✓ Water source - puddle, flat rock or shallow dish filled with water (an unmodified bird bath is too deep)
- ✓ South facing rocks and/or logs for sunning

## Step 3: Choose Your Plants

Aim to use plants that:

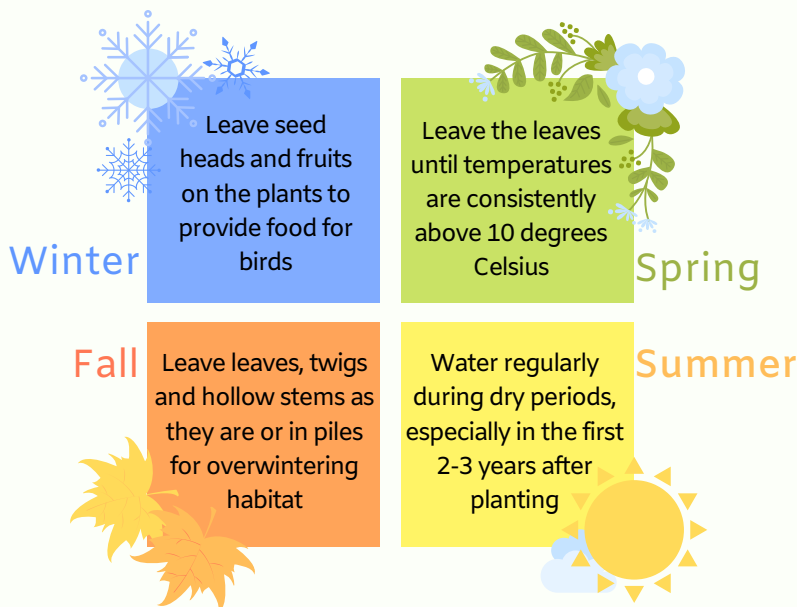
- ▶ Are **NATIVE** (avoid invasive species and cultivars)
- ▶ Suit your sun, soil and moisture conditions
- ▶ Have a variety of bloom times, flower colours, shapes, textures, heights and growth forms (e.g. grasses, wildflowers and shrubs)
- ▶ Are from local seed sources
- ▶ Are food sources for larvae (e.g. milkweed for monarch caterpillars) and birds (e.g. produce berries)

Consult a native plant list for the Hamilton area, available on our website at <https://www.hamiltonpollinatorparadise.org/>

## Step 4: Prepare & Plant

The best time to plant native plants is in early **spring or fall**. If your garden site has other vegetation on it right now, such as lawn, you will need to remove this vegetation first to start from scratch. Be mindful that plants will get bigger, so research their mature size and leave enough space between them. You can also 'stage' them in your garden area before planting to make sure they all fit nicely! Be sure to water deeply after planting. Visit our website for more details on removing unwanted vegetation, site preparation, and planting.

## Step 5: Maintain Your Garden All Year Round!



## Get on the Pollinator Corridor Map!

Apply for our FREE certification program and get your pollinator paradise included in the Pollinator Corridor. Receive our Free "We are Feeding Pollinators" sign to showcase the work you are doing to help pollinators.

