

Gardening for Pollinators

Use a variety of native plants that bloom at different times to ensure that nectar and pollen are available from early spring to late fall.

Grow host and nectar plants that support all stages of pollinator life cycles.

Cluster plants in groups of three or more making it easier for pollinators to locate and feed on them.

Avoid pesticides. Most pesticides aren't selective and harm beneficial insects too.

Cut back stems in spring leaving stubble of 8 to 24 inches to provide winter nesting cavities for native bees and wasps.

Leave fallen leaves in the garden providing habitat for overwintering insects and invertebrates.

Leave bare ground to provide habitat for many of the native bees that nest in the ground.

Remove invasive plants that outcompete natives plants.



Additional resources

Blandy Experimental Farm blandy.virginia.edu/
Virginia Native Plant Society vnps.org

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation www.xerces.org
Pollinator Partnership pollinator.org
Plant Virginia Natives plantvirginiannatives.org

Your Support Matters

The Pollination Garden is supported by the Foundation of the State Arboretum. Become a member of the Foundation or sign up to volunteer by visiting our website blandy.virginia.edu and click on the "Support" tab for more information.

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A Guide to Creating a Pollinator Garden

The State Arboretum of Virginia
at the University of Virginia's
Blandy Experimental Farm

Plants for Pollinators

These are just a few Virginia native pollinator favorites that grow well in our area in full to part sun in average garden soils.



Golden Alexanders
Zizia aurea, Zizia aptera
Blooms from April to June. Easy to grow in full to part sun. Early nectar source.



Beebalm
Monarda spp.
Striking blooms from June to September grows best in full sun.



Lobelias
Lobelia cardinalis, L. siphilitica
Morning sun and moist soils are best. Blooms from July to October.



Ironweed
Vernonica glauca
The tall, upright, bright purple flowers bloom from July to August.



Golden ragworts
Packera aurea
Blooms in May to June in full sun to light shade. Evergreen ground cover.



Mountain mints
Pycnanthemum spp.
Minty fragrance and spreading habit. Blooms from July to September.



Joe Pye weeds
Eutrochium spp.,
Eupatorium spp.
Tall, sturdy plants bloom from July to October.



Goldenrods
Solidago spp.
Species for full sun to shade, in moist soils to dry. Yellow blooms from July to October.



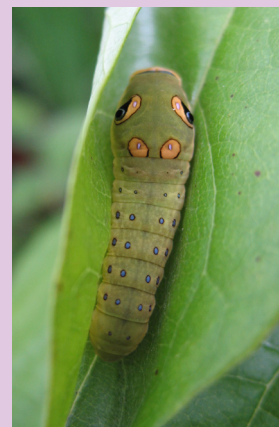
Beardtongues
Penstemon spp.
Variety of colors and growing conditions. Tubular, unique blooms from May to June.



Milkweeds
Asclepias spp.
Provide nectar and host services for a number of pollinators, blooms from June to August.

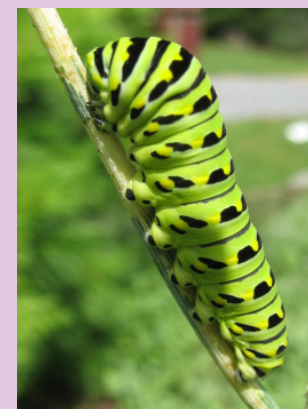


Hungry Caterpillars

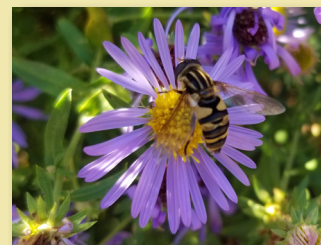


Pipevine swallowtail caterpillar on spicebush.

Female butterflies and moths lay their eggs on the leaves of host plants, a plant whose leaves caterpillars (larvae) consume to grow. Trees, shrubs, and perennials can handle heavy feeding by caterpillars that will turn into adult butterflies and moths. Chewed and nibbled leaves are a sign of a healthy and sustainable landscape.



Black swallowtail caterpillar eating dill.



Asters
Symphotrichum spp.,
Eurybia sp.
The quintessential fall perennial. Blooms from August to October. Pair with goldenrods.



Honeysuckle vine
Lonicera sempervirens
Native vine with tubular scarlet flowers blooming from May to June.

