

Buzzing Into Action: Creating Pollinator-Friendly Environments

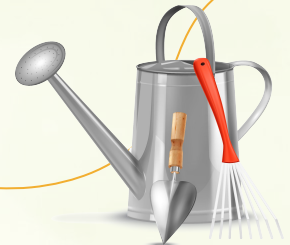
Why Pollinator Gardens Matter and How You Can Help



What are Pollinators?

Have you ever considered the process by which fruits and vegetables develop? Well, that's thanks to Pollinators!

- Pollinators include animals such as bees, butterflies, birds, and bats, which are essential for plant growth.
- They accomplish this by transferring pollen between flowers, facilitating plant production of fruits, vegetables, and seeds.
- There are over 200,000 distinct species of pollinators globally.
- Many plants would struggle to grow and reproduce without them.
- What pollinators have you seen in your area?



Why Do Pollinators Matter?

Pollinators & Our Food

- Pollinators play a crucial role in ecosystems.
- Pollen is transferred between flowers, allowing plants to generate fruits and seeds
- Approximately one-third of the food consumed is dependent on their efforts.
- Pollinators play a significant role in the cultivation of apples, strawberries, pumpkins, almonds, and coffee.
- Their actions contribute to biodiversity and aid in the preservation of healthy ecosystems.
- Did you know that bees make honey while they're busy pollinating?

Fun Fact It is interesting to note that butterflies have the ability to taste through their feet. Upon landing on a flower, their feet assist in assessing its suitability for feeding.

Did You Know?

About **75%** of the world's crops depend on pollinators



Threats to Pollinators

Pollinators encounter various challenges that risk their survival:

- Habitat Loss: Natural environments are being substituted with structures, roadways, and various developments.
- Pesticides: The application of chemicals for pest control may inadvertently affect pollinators negatively.
- Climate change results in altered weather patterns, which pose challenges for the survival of pollinators.
- Diseases: bees and other insects, similar to humans, can be affected by diseases.

The issues at hand negatively impact pollinators and also threaten biodiversity and the cultivation of crops that rely on pollination for the development of fruits and seeds.

It is concerning that almost 40% of invertebrate pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and moths, are facing reductions in their populations.



What is a Pollinator Garden?

A Home For Pollinators

- A garden designed to draw and assist pollinators, offering them all the resources they require to flourish, such as plants high in pollen and nectar, water sources, and secure cover.
- Diversity: Pollinators have resources all year round thanks to a variety of floral forms, colours, and flowering seasons.
- Habitat Restoration: These gardens aid in making up for the natural ecosystems that urbanization has displaced.
- Conservation: They are essential to the survival of threatened species like monarch butterflies.





Why Create a Pollinator Garden?

Helping Pollinators Thrive

- Pollinator gardens provide pollinators with vital food and shelter.
- These gardens are a great way to learn about ecosystems and connect with nature.
- They also help fight climate change by supporting plants that absorb carbon and create a healthier environment.
- By creating these gardens, you can increase the number of pollinators in your area, which will make it easier for plants to grow and reproduce.





Get Ready to Start Your Own Pollinator Garden at Home!

Winter Sowing

Supplies Required:

- A clean, vacant container (such as a milk jug, 2-liter bottle, food tub, etc.)
- Scissors or utility knife (to be used with adult supervision)
- Permanent marker, potting soil, seeds, spray bottle, tape, labels

Key Steps:

1. Get your container ready: Brush the bottle clean and dry it. Make a "clamshell" hole by cutting it almost all the way around.
2. Create Drainage Holes: Press holes in the base to let water drain away.
3. Fill the pot with 3 to 4 inches of dirt made just for pots. Press it down a little.
4. Plant Seeds: Spread the seeds out, cover them with a little soil, and slowly press them down.
5. The water should be misted with a spray bottle.
6. Put a lid on the container and mark it with the date and name of the seeds. Seal the lid with tape.
7. Put it outside: You can leave it outside in the sun even if it snows or gets cold. Now you have something to do at home!

→ This will be your take-home activity!



Activity Explanation

This is your activity to do at home! Start collecting your containers now, so you and your parents can do it together.

Why winter sowing and pollinators matter:

- Understanding the importance of winter sowing and pollinators: Winter sowing gives your seeds a "mini greenhouse" to stay safe until spring.
- Allowing herbs like basil, oregano, and chives to **grow flowers** will give bees, butterflies, and other important pollinators another food source.

TIP: Every two weeks, check your container to make sure it hasn't dried out!

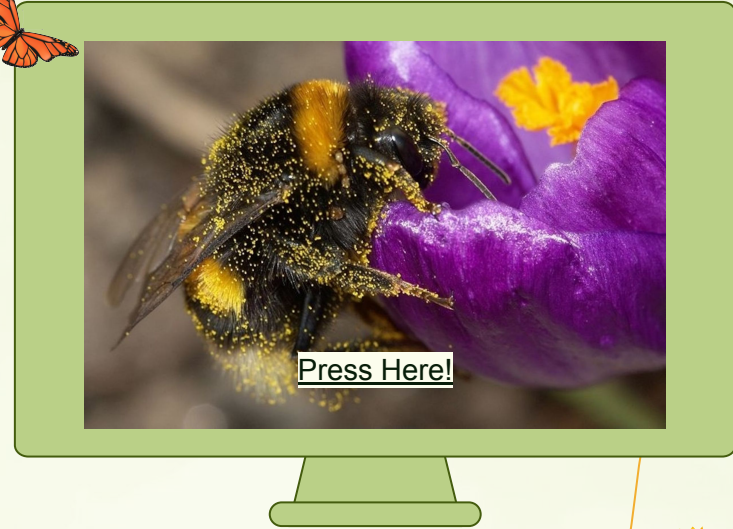




Video Time!

Learn more about how flowers and pollinators work together by watching this fun and interesting video!

This is going to help us understand why pollinators are so important!



Our Call to Action

- You can make a big difference for pollinators!
- Tell your friends and family about the importance of pollinators.
- Keep caring for your seedling kits and try winter sowing to grow more native plants.
- Plan a pollinator-friendly space at home or at school to support these amazing creatures.
- Every small action adds up to a big impact!



Testing Your Knowledge

- What is something new you learned today?
- What happens if we don't have enough pollinators?
- What is your favourite pollinator?
- What do you think about winter sowing?
- Is there anything you're curious about or something you'd like to learn more about?



Thank You For
Buzzing In!

