



## Why should I plant a pollinator garden?

- Most plants require pollination by insects.
- Pollinators are experiencing global declines due to habitat loss and human changes to their environment.
- Pollinator gardens are an ideal way to connect with nature and offer many opportunities for educators.
- You can do a part in helping to preserve plant and insect biodiversity in North Carolina, upon which all other animals (including us) depend.



## Selecting a Location for Your Garden

- Find a site with full or partial sun and some protection from the wind to attract the most insects.
- Your soil type and amount of moisture and sunlight will determine the types of plants you need.
- Make sure your garden is easily accessible but is not in an area that will obstruct pathways.
- Yards, schools, and businesses are all great places for a pollinator garden!





## Selecting Your Plants

- Whenever possible, use only **native plants**.
- Purchase plants or seeds from a local nursery.
- Make sure your plants have not been treated with pesticides.
- Select a diverse range of plants that support different pollinators.
- Select perennial plants that will come back each year.
- Select plants that will bloom at different times throughout the year.
- Include some night-blooming flowers that support moths and bats.

## Get Planting!

- If planting from seed, fall or late winter are a good time to start.
- If starting with small plants, make sure to follow frost guidelines to avoid planting too early.
- Dig holes just big enough for the plant's root system, then cover and reinforce the roots with soil or compost.
- Add mulch to reduce weed growth.

To learn about the plants that are native to North Carolina, visit the NCBP's Vascular Plants of NC site:

<https://auth1.dpr.ncparks.gov/flora/index.php>



## Why Native Plants?



Insects and plants have co-evolved over millions of years and have highly specialized relationships. Insects are not adapted to eat or pollinate non-native plants. Non-natives from around the world have been introduced throughout North Carolina, and are among the most commonly planted species in yards and gardens. While some of these introduced species are relatively harmless, others are considered dangerous invasives. Native plants also have the advantage of being well adapted to our local climate and soil.

# Creating a Pollinator Garden in North Carolina



North Carolina Biodiversity Project

## So what should I plant?

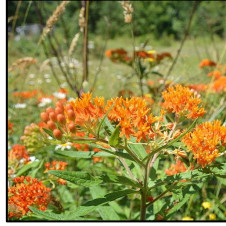
The following is a small selection of native plants recommended by the **New Hope Audubon**. See their full list of recommended plants here:

<https://www.newhopeaudubon.org/wp-content/themes/nhas/library/docs/native-plant-growing-guide-piedmont-nc.pdf>

In addition to herbaceous plants, trees and shrubs are an essential part of any ecosystem. We recommend native species of the following for NC:

**Trees:** Oak (*Quercus*), Cherry (*Prunus*), Willow (*Salix*), Hickory (*Carya*), Maple (*Acer*), Elm (*Ulmus*), Birch (*Betula*), Beech (*Fagus*), Walnut (*Juglans*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus*)

**Shrubs/Vines:** Blueberry (*Vaccinium*), Viburnum, Blackberry (*Rubus*), Grape (*Vitis*), Rose (*Rosa*), Azalea (*Rhododendron*), Spicebush (*Lindera*)



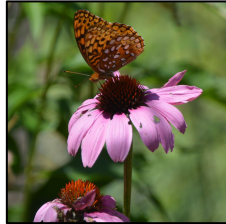
### Milkweed (*Asclepias* species)

Milkweeds are hosts to Monarch butterflies, and are an essential part of any pollinator garden. Native species include Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*).



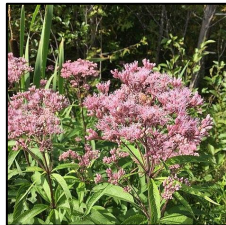
### Beebalm (*Monarda* species)

Beebalm attracts a variety of pollinators, including bees, wasps, moths, and hummingbirds. Native species include Spotted Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*), Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), and Scarlet Beebalm (*Monarda didyma*).



### Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)

Purple Coneflower is a popular perennial that blooms from summer into fall. It attracts a range of pollinators, including bees and butterflies, and its seeds provide food for birds.



### Joe-pye Weed (*Eutrochium* species)

Joe-pye Weeds are summer-blooming perennials that attract bees, moths, butterflies, and other insects. Hollow Joe-pye Weed (*Eutrochium fistulosum*) is a native species well suited to NC pollinator gardens.



## **Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)**

Buttonbush attracts bees, moths, hummingbirds, and a variety of other pollinators. This native, deciduous shrub usually grows to a height of 3 to 10 feet.



## **Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum* species)**

Mountain mints attract bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. Native species include Silverleaf (*P. incanum*), Narrow-leaf (*P. tenuifolium*), and Short-toothed (*P. muticum*).



## **Goldenrod (*Solidago* species)**

Goldenrods are popular with many pollinating insects. Native species include Wrinkle-leaf (*Solidago rugosa*) and Bluestem (*Solidago caesia*).



## **New York Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*)**

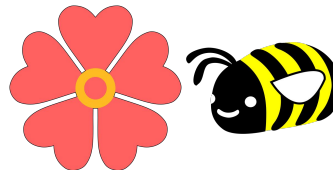
New York Ironweed is an attractive summer-flowering perennial that makes an excellent addition to your pollinator garden.



**Created by David George, 2023**

To learn more about the work of the North Carolina Biodiversity Project and view additional resources, visit our website at:

<https://nc-biodiversity.com/>



All images public domain. Information adapted from US FWS, US Forest Service, and New Hope Audubon.