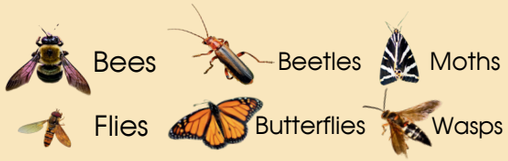
Pollinators in Need

We rely on a diversity of insect species to pollinate crops and wild plants



are chiefly responsible for supporting our ecosystems and agricultural lands.

Other parts of the world have bats, birds and other animals that aide in pollination

- Roughly 3,600 species of native bees call our continent home.
- Pollinating insects have co-evolved with our native plants
  - because of these long-lasting relationships, they are highly efficient pollinators.
- Many pollinator species are declining or imperiled due to habitat loss, pesticide use, disease and climate change effects.

You can support pollinators by providing forage, nesting opportunities and limiting or adjusting pesticide use.

What is Pollinator Habitat?

It is a community of native wildflowers, trees, grasses and shrubs that provide essential food and shelter for native pollinator species.

To support pollinators effectively, it's important to provide flowers for foraging as well as nesting and overwintering sites.

Most native bees nest in the ground, and other pollinating insects use leaf litter and woody debris to nest and overwinter in, so make sure to leave natural areas with these habitat features on your property.

You may be eligible for technical assistance or funding to assist with your pollinator habitat project.



Contact Us
NEW JERSEY AUDUBON STEWARDSHIP DEPT
1024 Anderson Road
Port Murray, NJ 07865
EMAIL: conservation@njaudubon.org

www.njaudubon.org/stewardship



New Jersey Audubon's

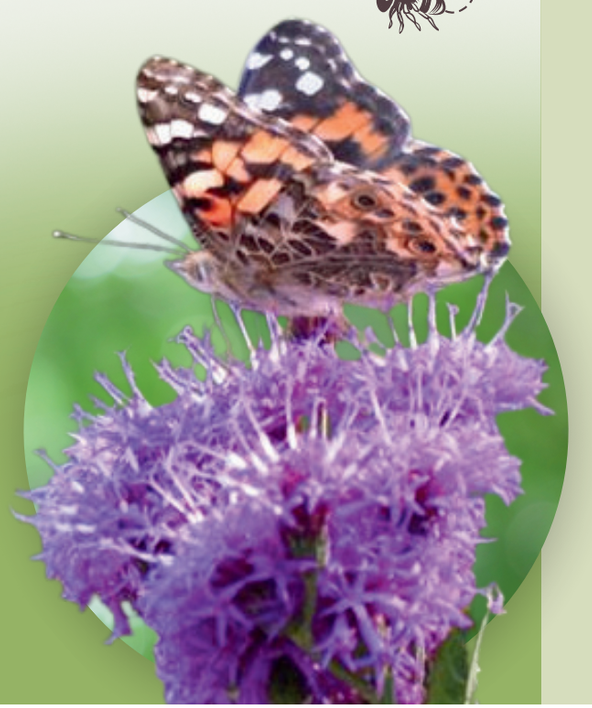
Pollinator Habitat

Best Management Practices

NEW JERSEY AUDUBON

Benefits of Pollinator Habitat

- Reduces soil erosion
- Revitalizes unproductive land
- Conserves soil moisture
- Supports crop pollination
- Provides habitat for wildlife
- Supports Integrated Pest Management
- Protects water quality
- Enhances climate resiliency



How Do I Begin?

Right plant, Right place

- Understand your site's soil conditions, slope, and sun exposure
- Select plants that are native to your area and are adapted to your site conditions.



Tips for a Successful Project: Site Preparation and Maintenance

Site prep is everything.

Whether you are seeding a 10-acre meadow or planting a school garden

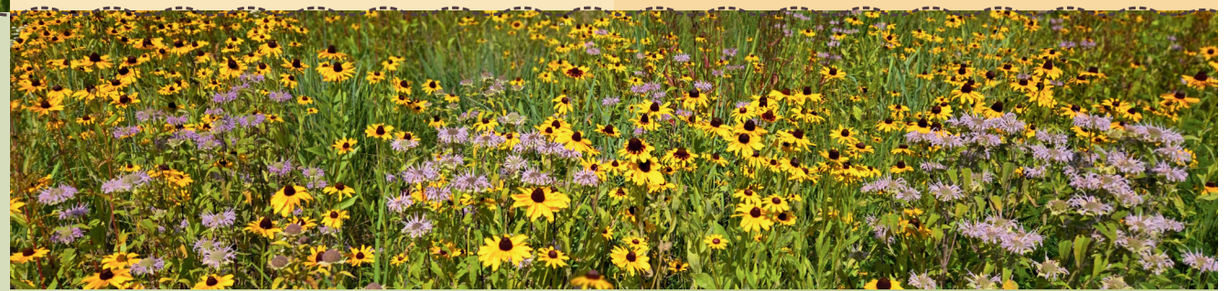
- Starting with clean and firm soil is critical
- The ground should be free of vegetation
  - Ensures good seed to-soil contact
  - Withstands weed competition.
- If your site has existing vegetation, eradicating it with targeted herbicide treatments, solarization, or smothering will be needed.

A pollinator garden and a pollinator meadow are not the same thing.

- Meadows, habitat borders, and other types of natural pollinator habitat are wild spaces and can take up to 3 years to reach maturity.
- Pollinator gardens can be more manicured and are best suited for small areas where they can be maintained by hand.
- Select the best type of habitat for your property and outline a maintenance plan ahead of time. Work with a professional to help you design your project if possible!

Choose a suite of species that are native to your area that bloom through the growing season.

- Insect pollinators are active from early spring to late fall
  - you will need to provide forage for them for several months.
- When choosing your plants, be sure to include a variety of species
  - at least three should be in bloom from early spring through the fall
  - include at least one flowering tree or shrub!



Insect pollinators are active from early spring to late fall, so you will need to provide forage for them for several months.

- If you are using seed, expect to mow your meadow several times during the establishment phase.
- Mowing high, at least 6", will knock back weed seeds and prevent native seedlings from being shaded out.

Have a maintenance plan in place before you start.

- Mowing, prescribed fire, and light discing are all acceptable methods for preventing tree saplings from overtaking a meadow.
- Public pollinator gardens should have dedicated volunteers willing to maintain a garden over time.
- Pollinator habitat can require yearly maintenance, so plan accordingly!