

Solving the Pollination Crisis...

One Pollinator at a Time!

Scientists all over the world are working on ways to help our native pollinators.
What can **you** do to help?

Five Simple Steps to Protecting Native Pollinators:

1. Provide Food and Water

Here are a few key points to consider when planting flowers to attract pollinators:

- ◆ **Use local perennial species** since they provide better resources for pollinators.
- ◆ **Avoid horticultural species**, such as marigolds and roses. These species have little to no pollen or nectar!
- ◆ Pick flowers of **different shapes, sizes, and colors** as they will attract a greater diversity of pollinators.
- ◆ Plant **clusters of flowers** in sunny areas protected from the wind.
- ◆ Pick species with **overlapping flowering periods** to provide resources for pollinators throughout the growing season.
- ◆ Bird baths or **damp soil** can provide water for pollinators. Mixing a bit of salt into damp soil can provide additional nutrients.



3. Provide Nesting Sites



Set aside a **small area of bare ground or brush** for pollinator foraging and nesting. Minimize mowing in this area!

Build a bee box! Tunnels drilled in blocks of wood make great nests for solitary bees. Make sure to provide a rain cover! You can also order pre-made nest boxes here:

- ◆ **Pollinator Paradise:**
<http://pollinatorparadise.com/>
- ◆ **Knox Cellars:**
<http://www.knoxcellars.com/>

Get the App!

BeeSmart™
Pollinator Gardener



<http://www.pollinator.org/beesmartapp.htm>

2. Minimize Harm

Use pesticides only when absolutely necessary! Try using **less toxic alternatives** and pay close attention to toxicity warnings on products.

Natural predators of pests will also be attracted to the habitat you create for pollinators, helping you to control pests naturally!



4. Monitor Your Success

Identify the pollinators that visit your yard! There are many resources available online to learn about pollinators.

Get involved in **citizen science projects** to monitor pollinators in your area. Below are just a few of these projects:



- ◆ **Great Sunflower Project:**
<http://www.greatsunflower.org/>
- ◆ **Great Pollinator Project:**
<http://greatpollinatorproject.org/>
- ◆ **Monarch Watch:** <http://monarchwatch.org/>
- ◆ **BeeSpotter:** <http://beespotter.mste.illinois.edu/>
- ◆ **Bee Hunt:** <http://www.discoverlife.org/bee/>

5. Spread the word!

Tell your friends what you're doing for the pollinators!