



POLLINATORS AND OUR FOOD SUPPLY

Native plants for native pollinators

ABOUT 85% OF THE WORLD'S FOOD AND FIBER CROPS DEPEND ON POLLINATORS FOR PRODUCTION.

WHAT IS A POLLINATOR?

A pollinator is an insect or animal that carries pollen from one flower to the next. They include bees, wasps, moths, butterflies, beetles, birds, flies and even small mammals, including bats.



Our pollinator garden has 40 varieties of native wildflowers and grasses. This abundance and diversity of plant life attracts many pollinators that will **also visit our vegetable and fruit crops nearby**. Good pollination leads to higher crop yields, which in turn can increase farm income. Look for these favorites:



Butterfly Weed
Asclepias tuberosa



Partridge Pea
Chamaecrista fasciculata



Rattlesnake Master
Eryngium yuccifolium



Prairie Blazing Star
Liatris pycnostachya

TIPS ON PLANTING A POLLINATOR GARDEN

1. Clear the area of grass and weeds. Install a raised bed, or use herbicide or solarization to rid of vegetation.
2. Add compost or other organic material to improve existing soil.
3. Choose the right plants or seeds for the right place. Consider full sun or shade; wet, dry, sandy, or clay-like soils.
4. Choose the right time to plant or seed. Fall and winter are good for direct seeding. Pay attention to early or late frosts on small seedlings.
5. Add mulch and edging to finish the area
6. Water, wait and watch. Soon the area will fill in and beneficial insects will visit daily!



Support for the pollinator projects throughout the MCC Student Farm provided by the McHenry County Farm Bureau and the Illinois Farm Bureau.



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