



Pollinator Garden Best Practices

- Full sun exposure works best
- Irrigation should be available
- Choose a variety of plants that bloom over an entire growing season
- Use primarily locally grown, non-cultivar, native species
- Plants can be grown from seed to minimize costs
- Provide nesting and larval-rearing plants in addition to nectar producing flowers
- Light mulching may be done to minimize weed growth

WHY POLLINATORS?



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goal is to provide nectar sources and larval-rearing plants for various species of pollinators, and demonstrate how each of us can participate in this effort.

These pollinator gardens are an example of the different species of plants that you can grow on your property. If everyone installs a small pollinator garden, collectively we can have a large impact.

We have planted the following species:



Purple Coneflower*



Black-eyed Susans*



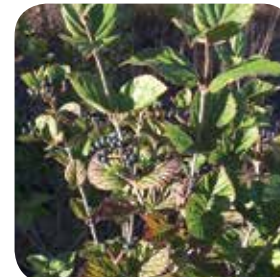
Coreopsis*



Little Blue Stem**



Mapleleaf Viburnum**



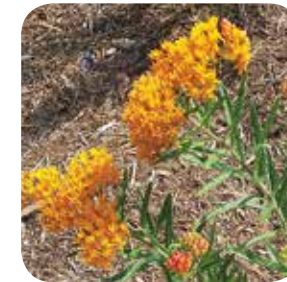
Arrowwood Viburnum**



October Skies Asters*



Goldenrod*



Common Milkweed**



Redbud*



Prairie
Dropseed**



Our lives depend on them

Pollination is the transfer of pollen grains between two flowers of the same species. It is required for the production of seeds and fruit. About three-fourths of all native plants worldwide require pollination by an animal, often insects, to successfully produce seeds. One of every three bites of food we eat is dependent upon pollinators, and pollinators provide over 15 billion dollars of value in US crop production annually (USDA, 2015).

Honey bees are the primary pollinator species responsible for crop production, but native bees, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, bats, beetles, and flies are important pollinator species as well. Habitat loss and other stressors have resulted in the severe decline of pollinator species across our country, leading to a national strategy to reverse the pollinator losses and restore populations to healthy levels.

REC has installed pollinator gardens at each of our offices to provide a rich habitat for pollinator species. Our

*nectar source

**larval-rearing plant