

Pollinator Friendly Plants


Working in Horticulture, it's our responsibility and privilege to create beautiful and ecologically beneficial landscapes. All gardens can play a critical role in conserving pollinators. Much research has already been done to help make our job easier. Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences – Department of Entomology conducted a study in from 2012-2015 to evaluate native plant species and their cultivars for their attractiveness to pollinators and their suitability for homeowner and agricultural use.

The top 10 Plants for Total Pollinator Visits over 3 Years were identified and we currently grow 9 of them:

Pycnanthemum muticum	Solidago rigida	Eryngium yuccifolium
Eupatorium hyssopifolium	Liatris microcephala	Eupatorium dubium
Asclepias incarnata	Monarda fistulosa	Aster laevis 'Bluebird'

<https://ento.psu.edu/news/bees-bugs-blooms-2013-a-pollinator-trial>

Pollinators are attracted to native and non-native plants. Having a diverse landscape with pollinator friendly plants throughout the season is crucial to improving pollinator health. Include plants of different heights, flower count, shape and color to attract a broader selection of pollinators including bees, butterflies, flies, hummingbirds, moths, etc. Grouping plant varieties together will increase the nectar/pollen amount available per visit. Plants with numerous small flowers like Aster lateriflorus 'Lady in Black', Calamintha nepeta ssp. Nepeta, Phlox paniculata 'Jeana' are especially attractive to pollinators.

Woody Ornamentals			
Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Amelanchier	Caryopteris	Abelia	Corylopsis
Aronia	Clethra	Buddleia	Edgeworthia
Camella	Diervilla	Camellia	Erica
Cercis	Hypericum	Indigofera	Hamamelis mollis
Fothergilla	Illicium	Lespedeza	Hamamelis vernalis
Pieris	Itea	Rhododendron Encore cvs	Hamamelis virginiana
Salix	Magnolia virginiana	Rosa	Mahonia
Herbaceous Plants			
Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Amsonia	Agastache	Anemone	
Carex pensylvanica	Asclepias	Aster	
Mertensia virginica	Calamintha	Helenium	
Packera aurea & obovata	Echinacea	Rudbeckia	
Iris cristata	Liatris	Solidago	
Phlox subulata	Monarda	Vernonia	
Tiarella	Penstemon	Verbena bonariensis	