

SELECTING

PLANTS

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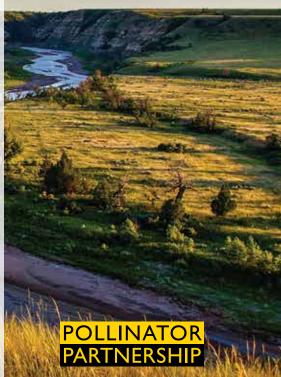
# POLLINATORS



# A GUIDE FOR GARDENERS, FARMERS, AND LAND MANAGERS IN THE

GREAT PLAINS PALOUSE DRY STEPPE PROVINCE

INCLUDING PARTS OF MONTANA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, WYOMING, COLORADO, NEBRASKA, KANSAS, OKLAHOMA, TEXAS, NEW MEXICO, IDAHO, AND WASHINGTON



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This is one of several guides for different regions of North America. We welcome your feedback to assist us in making the future guides useful. Please contact us at feedback@pollinator.org

## SELECTING PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS

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IN THE

GREAT PLAINS - PALOUSE DRY STEPPE PROVINCE



INCLUDING PARTS OF MONTANA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, WYOMING, COLORADO, NEBRASKA, KANSAS, OKLAHOMA, TEXAS, NEW MEXICO, IDAHO, AND WASHINGTON

A NAPPC AND POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP CANADA<sup>™</sup> PUBLICATION

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# WHY SUPPORT POLLINATORS?

IN THEIR 1996 BOOK, *THE FORGOTTEN POLLINATORS*, Buchmann and Nabhan estimated that animal pollinators are needed for the reproduction of 90% of flowering plants and one third of human food crops. Each of us depends on these industrious pollinators in a practical way to provide us with the wide range of foods we eat. In addition, pollinators are part of the intricate web that supports the biological diversity in natural ecosystems that helps sustain our quality of life.

Abundant and healthy populations of pollinators can improve fruit set and quality, and increase fruit size. In farming situations this increases production per hectare. In the wild, biodiversity increases and wildlife food sources increase. Alfalfa, flax, sunflower, and cotton are some of the crop types grown in the Great Plains - Palouse Dry Steppe ecoregion that rely on honey bees and native bees for pollination. Honey bees pollinate more than \$1 billion worth of crops in Canada each year.

Unfortunately, the numbers of many native pollinators are declining. They are threatened by habitat loss, disease, climate change, and the excessive and inappropriate use of pesticides. As a result research and conservation actions supporting native pollinators are increasingly active. Honey bee colony losses have significantly impacted beekeepers. Parasites, disease, pesticide use, insufficient nutrition, and transportation practices all impact honey bee health, and this in turn can impact the commercial pollination services honey bees provide. The efforts to understand the threats to commercial bees should help us understand other pollinators and their roles in the environment as well.

It is imperative that we take immediate steps to help pollinator populations thrive. The beauty of the situation is that by supporting pollinators' need for habitat, we support our own needs for food and support diversity in the natural world.

Thank you for taking time to consult this guide. By adding plants to your landscape that provide food and shelter for pollinators throughout their active seasons and by adopting pollinator friendly landscape practices, you can make a difference to both the pollinators and the people that rely on them.

Jamie Davis Alams

Laurie Davies Adams President and CEO Pollinator Partnership

66 **FLOWERING PLANTS** ACROSS WILD. FARMED AND EVEN **URBAN LANDSCAPES** ACTUALLY FEED THE TERRESTRIAL WORLD. AND POLLINATORS **ARE THE GREAT CONNECTORS WHO ENABLE THIS GIANT** FOOD SYSTEM TO WORK FOR ALL WHO EAT... INCLUDING US.

ROGER LANG, CHAIRMAN,
POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP

SELECTING PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS

### **GETTING STARTED**

THIS REGIONAL GUIDE IS JUST ONE in a series of plant selection tools designed to provide you with information on how to plant local native plants for pollinators. Each of us can have a positive impact by providing the essential habitat requirements for pollinators including food, water, shelter, and enough space to raise their young.

Pollinators travel through the landscape without regard to property ownership or provincial boundaries. We've chosen to use the ecoregional classification system and to underscore the connections between climate and vegetation types that affect the diversity of pollinators in the environment.

The United States ecoregions are based on the highest resolution level

of Bailey's ecosystem classification. The Baliey's ecosystem classification is a description of vegetation or other natural land covers within domains with similar climates. This guide addresses pollinator-friendly land management practices in what is known as the Great Plains -Palouse dry Steppe ecoregion.

The seasonal cycle of sun and shade within the forests has created a changing pattern of bloom time for food plants and shelter needs for foraging, nesting, and migrating pollinators. Farms and residential areas provide a diverse range of soil types in both sunny and shady areas. With this diversity of locations many different species of plants may be used to improve pollinator habitats where they are lacking. Long before there were homes and farms in the Great Plains - Palouse Dry Steppe Province, natural vegetation provided essential opportunities for wildlife, including pollinators. Farmers, land managers, and gardeners in this region have a wide palette of plants to use in the landscape. In choosing plants, aim to create habitat for pollinators that allow adequate food, shelter, and water sources. Most pollinators have very small home ranges. You will make a difference by understanding the vegetation patterns on the farm, forest, or neighbor's yard adjacent to your property. With this information in hand, your planting choices will better support the pollinators' need for food and shelter as they move through the landscape.

## UNDERSTANDING The great plains - palouse dry steppe province



- ℅ The Great Plains- Palouse Dry Steppe ecoregion makes up approximately half of the Temperate Steppe Division. The prevalence of grasses and herbs, along with large rolling prairies and grasslands have made this area intensely farmed and used for pasture.
- Not sure about which region you live or work in? Go to www. pollinator.org/guides and click on Ecoregion Locator for help.
- 290,700 square miles across numerous states.
- X The topography includes rolling plains and tablelands that gradually slope towards the Rocky Mountains.
- **Elevations range from 1,200 feet to 6,000 feet.**
- X Average annual temperatures range from 37 to 48 degrees Fahrenheit.
- X Annual year round precipitation is between 10 to 30 inches.
- **%** Farming and livestock raising are the primary economic activities within the ecoregion.

### **CHARACTERISTICS**

- Within this region there are 3 distinct areas: the northern glaciated plains, the northwestern glaciated plains, and the northwestern Great Plains.
- Solution The majority of vegetation is a mixture of grasses and herbs. During the spring and summer many of the wildflowers will bloom.
- Farming and agriculture have converted at least 85% of the northwestern Great Plains and around 90% of the Palouse Prairie area.

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Great Plains - Palouse Dry Steppe Province includes: Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Idaho, Washington "ADDING NATIVE PLANTINGS IN RIPARIAN AREAS TO IMPROVE POLLINATOR HABITAT MAKES SENSE IN ADVANCING OUR FAMILY FARM'S CONSERVATION AND ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES, ENHANCING BENEFICIAL WILDLIFE AND IMPROVING POLLINATION IN OUR ORCHARD AND GARDEN." – LEE MCDANIEL,

FARMER AND PRESIDENT, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

## MEET THE POLLINATORS



The Rufous Hummingbird, a migrating species within the Great Plains - Palouse Dry Steppe Province.

Painted Lady butterfly



# WHO ARE THE Pollinators?

### BEES

Bees are the best documented pollinators in the natural and agricultural landscapes of the Great Plains - Palouse Dry Steppe ecoregion. A wide range of plants in the Aster and Rose Families, apples, strawberries and raspberries are just a few plants that benefit from bee pollinators.

Most of us are familiar with the colonies of honey bees that have been the workhorses of agricultural pollination for years in United States. They were imported from Europe almost 400 years ago and continue to be managed for honey production and pollination services. There are around 4,000 species of native bees in the United States. Most of these bee species live a solitary life; a minority are social and form colonies or nest in aggregations.

Native bees visit and pollinate many crops; in many cases they are better at transferring pollen than honey bees. Our native bees can be encouraged to do more to support agricultural endeavors if their needs for nesting habitat are met and if suitable sources of nectar, pollen, and water are provided. Bees come in a variety of body shapes and sizes, and even have tongues of different lengths. Native bees visit the widest range of flowers and crops of any pollinator group.

Bumble bees (*Bombus* spp.) form small colonies, usually underground making use of old rodent burrows or dense thatches. They are generalists, feeding on a wide range of plant types from May to September and are important pollinators of

tomatoes and blueberries. Sweat bees (family Halictidae) are medium to small-sized, slender bees that commonly nest underground. Various species are solitary while others form loose colonies, nesting side-by-side. Other common solitary bees include carpenter bees (Xylocopa virginica), which nest by chewing into wood; mining bees (Andrena spp.), which nest underground and are common in the spring; leaf-cutter bees (Megachile spp.), which prefer dead trees or branches for their nest sites; and mason bees (Osmia spp.), which utilize cavities they find in stems and dead wood that they fill with mud.

### **BUTTERFLIES**

Butterflies prefer open and sunny areas such as meadows and along woodland edges that provide bright flowers, water sources, and specific host plants for their caterpillars. Gardeners have been attracting butterflies to their gardens for some time. To encourage butterflies place flowering plants where they have full sun and are protected from the wind. They usually look for flowers that provide a good landing platform. Butterflies need open areas (e.g., bare earth, large stones) where they can bask, and moist soil from which they wick needed minerals. Butterflies eat rotten fruit and even dung, so don't clean up all the messes in your garden! By providing a safe place to eat and nest, gardeners can also support the pollination role that butterflies play in the landscape. In the Great Plains- Palouse Dry Steppe ecoregion it is common to see the American Lady Butterfly (Vanessa virginiensis), the Painted Lady butterfly (Vanessa cardui), and the Red Admiral (Vanessa atalanta).

### MOTHS

Moths are most easily distinguished from butterflies by their antennae. Butterfly antennae are simple with a swelling at the end. Moth antennae differ from simple to featherlike, but never have a swelling at the tip. Butterfly bodies are not very hairy, while moth bodies are quite hairy and much more stout. In addition, butterflies typically are active during the day; moths at night. They are attracted to flowers that are strongly sweet smelling, open in late afternoon or night, and are typically white or pale colored.

### **BEETLES**

There are around 30,000 species of beetles in the United States and many of them can be found easily by looking inside flower heads. Gardeners have yet to intentionally draw beetles to their gardens, possibly because beetle watching isn't as inspiring as butterfly or bird watching. Yet beetles do play a role in pollination. Some have a bad reputation because they can leave a mess behind, damaging plant parts as they eat pollen. Beetle pollinated plants tend to be large, strong scented flowers and have the anthers and stigma exposed. Beetles are known to pollinate magnolia, paw paws, and yellow pond lilies.

### **FLIES**

It may be hard to imagine why one would want to attract flies to the garden. However, flies are one of the most diverse group of pollinators. They include colouful flower flies and hover flies (*Syrphidae*), active bee flies (*Bombylüdae*), and tiny midges that visit many plant species. Like bees, flies are hairy and can easily transport pollen from flower to flower. Flies primarily pollinate small flowers that bloom under shade and in seasonally moist habitats, but are also economically important as pollinators for a range of annual and bulbous ornamental flowers. Plants pollinated by flies include the American pawpaw (Asimina triloba), skunk cabbage (Symplocarpus foetidus), goldenrod (Solidago spp.), and members of the carrot family.

### BIRDS

Hummingbirds are the primary birds that play a role in pollination in North America. Their long beaks and tongues draw nectar from tubular flowers. Pollen is carried on both their beaks and feathers. Regions closer to the tropics, with warmer climates, boast the largest number of hummingbird species and the greatest number of native plants to support their need for food. The Rufous Hummingbird (Selasphorus rufus) is commonly seen during their migration season. Hummingbirds can see the color red; bees cannot. Many flowers grown in the Great Plains - Palouse Dry Steppe, along with native woodland edge plants, attract hummingbirds.

### BATS

Though bat species in the northern United States are not pollinators, bats in the south western United States and Mexico are important pollinators of agave and cactus. The head shape and long tongues of nectar bats allows them to delve into flower blossoms and extract both pollen and nectar; pollen covers their hairy bodies and is transfer as they move from plant to plant.

### **SPECIES AT RISK**

Species at Risk include endangered species, threatened species, and special concern species. Some pollinator species, such as the Regal Fritillary butterfly have already seen a decline in their native ranges. Other species are of conservation concern because of their rarity in the United states, but their formal conservation status has yet to be determined. Because habitat loss is one of the largest threats facing many pollinators, the very best thing you can do is plant for them.

#### **Regal Fritillary butterfly**

- The Regal Fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*) is found in the Great Plains states from Montana east across the Northern United states to Maine.
- It holds both special status in a variety of states ranging from Species of Concer to Endangered.
- The Regal Fritillary depends on tall grass prairies, open meadows, and mountain pastures for their habitats. Their larval host plant is violets.
- The largest threat to the Regal Fritillary is the loss of prairie habitat due to development and agriculture.

## PLANT TRAITS



# WHICH FLOWERS DO THE POLLINATORS PREFER?

NOT ALL POLLINATORS ARE found in each province, and some are more important in different parts of Canada. Use this page as a resource to understand the plants and pollinators where you live.

Plants can be grouped together based on the similar characteristics of their flowers. These floral characteristics can be useful to predict the type of pollination method or animal that is most effective for that group of plants. This association between floral characteristics and pollination method is called a pollination syndrome.

The interactions of animal pollinators and plants have influenced the evolution of both groups of organisms. A mutualistic relationship between the pollinator and the plant species helps the pollinator find necessary pollen and nectar sources and helps the plant reproduce by ensuring that pollen is carried from one flower to another.

	Ро	llinator		
Plant Trait	Bees	Beetles	Birds	
Color	Bright white, yellow, blue, or UV	Dull white or green	Scarlet, orange, red or white	
Nectar Guides	Present	Absent	Absent	
Odor	Fresh, mild, pleasant	None to strongly fruity or fetid	None	
Nectar	Usually present	Sometimes present; not hidden	Ample; deeply hidden	
Pollen	Limited; often sticky and scented	Ample	Modest	
Flower Shape	Shallow; have landing platform; tubular	Large bowl-like, Magnolia	Large funnel like; cups, strong perch support	

This chart and more information on pollinator syndromes can be found at:



# AND THE POLLINATORS THEY ATTRACT

# Pollinator

Plant Trait	Butterflies	Flies	Moths	Wind
Color	Bright, including red and purple	Pale and dull to dark brown or purple; flecked with translucent patches	Pale and dull red, purple, pink or white	Dull green, brown, or colorless; petals absent or reduced
Nectar Guides	Present	Absent	Absent	Absent
Odor	Faint but fresh	t but fresh Putrid		None
Nectar	Ample; deeply hidden	Usually absent	Ample; deeply hidden	None
Pollen	Limited	Modest in amount	Limited	Abundant; small, smooth, and not sticky
Flower Shape	Narrow tube with spur; wide landing pad	Shallow; funnel like or complex and trap-like	Regular; tubular without a lip	Regular; small and stigmas exerted

http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/syndromes.shtml

# DEVELOPING LANDSCAPE PLANTINGS THAT PROVIDE POLLINATOR HABITAT

WHETHER YOU ARE A FARMER of many acres, land manager of a large tract of land, or a gardener with a small lot, you can increase the number of pollinators in your area by making conscious choices to include plants that provide essential habitat for bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, hummingbirds, and other pollinators.

# FOOD:

Flowers provide nectar (high in sugar and necessary amino acids) and pollen (high in protein) to pollinators. Fermenting fallen fruits also provide food for bees, beetles, and butterflies.

Specific plants, known as host plants, are eaten by the larvae of pollinators such as butterflies.

• Plant in groups to increase pollination efficiency. If a pollinator can visit the same type of flower over and over, it doesn't have to relearn how to enter the flower and can transfer pollen to the same species, instead of squandering the pollen on unreceptive flowers.

• Plant with bloom season in mind, providing food from early spring to late fall. (see Bloom Periods pp.16-19)

• Plant a diversity of plants to support a variety of pollinators. Flowers of different color, fragrance, and season of bloom on plants of different heights will attract different pollinator species and provide pollen and nectar throughout the seasons.

• Many herbs and annuals, although not native, are very good for pollinators. Mint, oregano, garlic, chives, parsley and lavender are just a few herbs that can be planted. Old fashioned zinnias, cosmos, and single sunflowers support bees and butterflies. Non-native crops, herbs, and ornamental flowers should only be planted in gardens.

- Recognize weeds that might be a good source of food. For example, dandelions provide nectar in the early spring before other flowers open. Milkweed is a host for the Monarch butterfly.
- Learn and utilize Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices to address pest concerns. Minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides.

# **SHELTER:**

Pollinators need protection from severe weather and from predators as well as sites for nesting and roosting.

- Incorporate different canopy layers in the landscape by planting trees, shrubs, and different-sized perennial plants.
- Leave dead snags for nesting sites of bees, and other dead plants and leaf litter for shelter.
- Avoid applying thick layers of mulch that are hard to dig through.
- Build bee boxes to encourage solitary, non-aggressive bees to nest on your property.
- Ground nesting bees are also attracted to lawns and short grass areas, especially if there is a south facing slope.
- Leave some areas of soil uncovered to provide ground nesting insects easy access to underground tunnels.
- Group plantings so that pollinators

can move safely through the landscape protected from predators.

• Include plants that are needed by butterflies during their larval development.

# WATER:

A clean, reliable source of water is essential to pollinators.

- Natural and human-made water features such as running water, pools, ponds, and small containers of water provide drinking and bathing opportunities for pollinators.
- Ensure the water sources have a shallow or sloping side so the pollinators can easily approach the water without drowning. Your current landscape probably includes many of these elements. Observe wildlife activity in your farm fields, woodlands, and gardens to determine what actions you can take to encourage other pollinators to feed and nest. Evaluate the placement of individual plants and water sources and use your knowledge of specific pollinator needs to guide your choice and placement of additional plants and other habitat elements. Minor changes by many individuals can positively impact the pollinator populations in your area. Watch for - and enjoy - the changes in your landscape!
- CAUTION LAND MANAGERS: Remember that pesticides are largely toxic to pollinators. Extreme caution is warranted if you choose to use any pesticide. Strategically apply pesticides only for problematic target species.



Alfalfa, cotton, flax, and sunflower are some of the commonly grown crops in the Great Plains - Dry Steppe Palouse Province that will benefit from strong native bee populations that boost pollination efficiency. Incorporate different plants throughout the farm that provide food for native populations when targeted crops are not in flower.

Farmers have many opportunities to incorporate pollinator-friendly land management practices on their land which will benefit the farmer in achieving his or her production goals:

• Minimize the use of pesticides to reduce the impact on native pollinators. Spray when bees aren't active (after dark or just

before dawn) and choose targeted ingredients.

• Consider using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies to control pests. Use pesticides that cause the least harm to non-target organisms and only use when pests reach economic thresholds. Be conscientious of the fact that different bees forage at different times of day. Peponapsis pruinosa, the squash bee, is active from dawn until noon. In the case of squash production, the best time to spray is in the evening rather than the early morning.

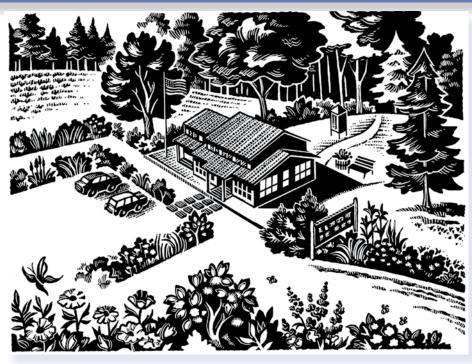
- Carefully consider the use of herbicides. Some weeds can provide needed food for pollinators.
- Minimize tillage to protect ground nesting pollinators.
- Consider creating designated

permanently untilled areas for ground nesting bees along internal farm laneways.

- Ensure water sources are scattered throughout the landscape.
- Choose a variety of native plants to act as windbreaks, riparian buffers, and field borders throughout the farm.
- Plant unused areas of the farm with temporary cover crops that can provide food or with a variety of trees, shrubs, and flowers that provide both food and shelter for pollinators.
- Check with your local Natural **Resources Conservation Service** (NRCS) office to see what technical support might be available to assist you in your effort to provide nectar, pollen, and larval food sources for pollinators on your farm.



### **PUBLIC LANDS**



Public lands are maintained for specific reasons ranging from high impact recreation to conservation. In the Great Plains - Palouse Dry Steppe Province, grasslands and prairies have been altered and converted to allow for roads, energy infrastructure, buildings, open lawn areas, boat ramps, and vistas. These other lands can provide benefits to pollinator when managed correctly. Pollinators are encouraged by timed mowing, opening tree canopies, and planting of native flowers. Less disturbed natural areas can be augmented with plantings of native plant species. Existing plantings around buildings and parking areas should be evaluated to determine if pollinator-friendly plants can be substituted or added to attract and support pollinators. Public land managers have a unique opportunity to use their plantings

as an education tool to help others understand the importance of pollinators in the environment through signs, brochures, and public programs.

In an effort to increase populations of pollinators the land manager can:

- Inventory and become
- knowledgeable of local pollinators.
- Provide connectivity between vegetation areas by creating corridors of perennials, shrubs, and trees that provide pollinators shelter and food as they move through the landscape.
- Maintain a minimum of lawn areas that support recreational needs.
- Restrict the use of insecticides and herbicides.
- Provide water sources in large open areas.
- Maintain natural meadows and openings that provide habitats for sun-loving wildflowers and grasses.
- Remove invasive species.



Gardeners have a wide array of plants to use in their gardens. Native plants, plants introduced from years of plant exploration from around the world, and plants developed by professional and amateur breeders can be found in garden centres, in catalogs, and on web-sites. Use your knowledge of pollinator needs to guide your choices.

- Choose a variety of plants that will provide nectar and pollen throughout the growing season.
- Resist the urge to have a totally manicured lawn and garden. Leave bare ground for ground nesting bees. Leave areas of dead wood and leaf litter for other insects.
- Find local resources to help you in your efforts. Contact your local garden club, county extension agent, or native plant society. Visit your regional botanic gardens and arboreta.

The scale of your plantings will vary but it is important to remember that you are trying to provide connectivity to the landscape adjacent to your property. Don't just look within your property boundaries. If your neighbor's property provides an essential element, such as water, which can be utilized by pollinators visiting your land, you may be able to devote more space to habitat elements that are missing nearby. It is best to use native plants which have evolved to support the needs of specific native pollinators. Some pollinators, however, are generalists and visit many different plants, both native and non-native. Be sure that any non-native plants you choose to use are not invasive. Remember that specialized cultivars sometimes aren't used by pollinators. Flowers that have been drastically altered, such as cultivars with double petals or completely different color than the wild species, often prevent pollinators from finding and feeding on the flowers. In addition, some cultivars don't contain the same nectar and pollen resources that attract pollinators to the wild types.

• CAUTION: Take time to evaluate the source of your plant material. You want to ensure you get plants that are healthy and correctly identified. Your local garden club can help you make informed decisions when searching for plants.

# PLANTS THAT ATTRACT POLLINATORS IN THE GREAT PLAINS - PALOUSE DRY STEPPE PROVINCE

The following chart lists plants that attract pollinators. It is not exhaustive, but provides guidance on where to start. Annuals, herbs, weeds, and cover crops provide food and shelter for pollinators, too.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Flower Color	Flower Season	Sun	Soil Moisture	Pollinators	Also a Host
			Tre	es and Shr	ubs			
Acer negundo	boxelder	35-60'	yellow, green, brown	Mar-Apr	full sun	moist	bees, moths	х
Amelanchier alnifolia			white	Apr-Jul	full sun to partial sun	moist to dry	bees, butterflies, flies	х
Amorpha canescens	leadplant	1-6′	purple, blue	Jun-Aug	full sun to partial sun	dry	bees, flies	х
Cercocarpus ledifolius	curl-leaf mountain mahogany	6-30'	white, cream, yellow	spring	sun, part shade	dry to moist	bees	
Cornus alba	red-osier dogwood	6-13'	white	May - June	partial shade	moist	butterflies, bees	х
Ericameria nauseosa	rubber rabbitbrush	1-8'	yellow	Aug-Oct	full sun	dry	butterflies, bees	
Juniperus scopulorum	Rocky Mountain juniper	15-50'	yellow	Apr-May	full sun to partial sun	dry	butterflies	х
Mahonia repens	creeping barberry	1-3'	yellow	Apr-Jun	full sun to shade	dry to moist	butterflies, bees	х
Physocarpus monogynus	mountain ninebark	5′	white	early summer	partial sun	moist	bees, beetles	х
Prunus angustifolia	Chickasaw plum	5-10'	white	Mar-Apr	full sun or partial shade	sandy	bees, flies, butterflies	
Prunus pensylvanica	pin cherry	30-50'	white	April - May	sun	dry, well drained	bees	
Prunus virginiana	chokecherry	10-30'	white	Mar-Jul	full sun to shade	dry to moist	bees, butterflies, moths	х
Rhus trilobatus	fragrant sumac	2-8'	white, yellow	Mar-Apr	full sun to partial sun	dry	bees	
Ribes aureum	golden currant	3-6'	yellow, red	Apr-Jun	full sun to partial sun	dry to moist	hummingbirds, butterflies, bees	х
Rosa acicularis	prickly rose	3'	pink	June - July	sun to partial shade	dry to wet	bees	
Rosa arkansana	prairie rose	1-3'	pink	May - September	sun	dry to moist	bees, butterflies	
Rosa woodsii	Wood's rose	4-5'	pink	May-Jul	full sun to shade	dry to moist	hummingbirds, bees, beetles	
Rubus idaeus	red raspberry	6'	white to cream	June - July	sun to partial shade	dry to moist	bees, butterflies	
Salix amygdaloides	peachleaf willow	10-60'	yellow	April - May	sun to partial shade	moist	butterflies, bees	х





Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Flower Color	Flower Season	Sun	Soil Moisture	Pollinators	Also a Host
Salix bebbiana	beaked willow	3-16'	white to cream, green to brown	April - May	sun to partial shade	moist to wet	butterflies, bees	Х
Symphoricarpos occidentalis	western snowberry	3'	white to pink	June - August	sun	dry to well drained	bees	
Viburnum lentago	sweet virburnum	12-22'	white to cream	May - June	sun to partial shade	dry to moist	bees, butterflies	х
Yucca glauca	plains yucca	4-5'	white	Jun-Aug	full sun	dry	butterflies, moths	х
				Forbs				
Agastache foeniculum	lavender hyssop	2-4'	blue, purple	July - August	sun to partial shade	dry to normal	bees, butterflies, hummingbirds	
Allium cernum	nodding onion	8-24"	white to cream, pink	July - August	sun	dry,normal,moist	bees, butterflies, hummingbirds	х
Antennaria parvifolia	small-leaf pussytoes	0-1'	white, red, pink, green, brown	Jul-Sep	full sun to shade	dry	butterflies	х
Anaphalis margaritacea	western pearly everlasting	3'	white, yellow	Jul-Sep	full sun to partial sun	dry to moist	bees, butterflies	х
Anemone multifida	cut-leaved anemone	3'	blue, yellow, red, purple, white to cream, pink	April - July	sun to shade	normal to moist	bees, flies	
Aquilegia coerulea	Colorado blue columbine	8-24"	blue, white	late spring- early summer	shade to part sun	moist	bees	
Aquilegia canadensis	wild columbine	3'	yellow, red	April - July	sun to partial shade	dry to moist	bees, butterflies, hummingbirds	х
Argemone polyanthemos	crested prickly poppy	1'	white	mid spring	full sun	medium to coarse texture	bees	
Arnica cordifolia	heartleaf arnica	1.5′	yellow	late spring	shaded	moist	bees, beetles	
Asclepias asperula	antelopehorns	1-2′	greenish- white	May-Aug	full sun	silty	moths, butterflies, bees, wasps	х
Asclepias incarnata	swamp milkweed	2-5'	pink	Jun-Aug	full sun to partial sun	moist to wet	hummingbirds, butterflies, bees	х
Asclepias speciosa	showy milkweed	1.5-3'	pink, purple, white	Jun-Aug	full sun	moist	hummingbirds, monarch butterflies, other butterflies, bees	х
Asclepias verticillata	whorled milkweed	1-3'	white, green, brown	May-Sep	full sun to partial sun	dry to normal	monarch butterfly, other butterflies, bees	Х
Asclepias viridiflora	green milkweed	12-32"	green, brown	Jun-Sep	full sun	dry	monarchs, bees, butterflies	х

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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# PLANTS THAT ATTRACT POLLINATORS IN THE GREAT PLAINS - PALOUSE DRY STEPPE PROVINCE

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Flower Color	Flower Season	Sun	Soil Moisture	Pollinators	Also a Host
Astragalus agrestis	purple milkvetch	1-3'	purple	May - August	sun	dry	bees, butterflies	
Callirhoe involucrata	purple poppymallow	6-12″	deep rose- pink	May-Sep	full sun	gravelly to sandy	bees, flies, butterflies	
Campanula rotundifolia	bluebell bellflower	1-3'	purple, blue	Jun-Sep	full sun to shade	dry to normal	bees	х
Cerastium arvense	field chickweed	6-18"	white to cream	May - September	sun	dry	bees, flies	
Cirsium undulatum	wavy-leaf thistle	1-3'	pink	May-Jun	full sun	dry	bees	
Comandra umbellata	bastard toadflax	0-1'	white to cream	April - June	sun	dry	butterflies	х
Cornus canadensis	bunchberry	6-12"	white to cream, green to brown	May - September	sun to shade	normal to moist	bees, flies	
Dalea candida	slender white prairie clover	18-24"	white	Jun-Aug	full sun	dry to normal	bees, butterflies	х
Dalea purpurea	purple prairie clover	2-3'	purple, pink	Mar-Sep	full sun	dry	bees, butterflies	
Dasiphora fruticosa	shrubby cinquefoil	1-4'	yellow,white to cream	June - September	sun	dry to normal	bees, butterflies	х
Delphinium bicolor	little larkspur	4-16"	blue to purple	May - July	sun	dry	bees	
Drymocallis arguta	white cinquefoil	2'	white to cream	June - September	sun	dry to normal	bees, flies	
Echinacea angustifolia	purple coneflower	8-24"	pink, purple	May-Jul	full sun to partial sun	dry to normal	bees, flies, butterflies	
Erigeron glabellus	smooth fleabane	12-18"	blue, purple, pink	July - August	sun to partial shade	dry to normal	bees, butterflies	
Erigeron speciosus	aspen fleabane	2.5′	blue/yellow	late summer	full sun	dry to moist	bees, butterflies, flies	х
Erigeron strigosus	prairie fleabane	1-3'	white to pink	April - May	sun	well drained	bees, butterflies	
Euthamia graminifolia	flat-top goldentop	1-3'	yellow	July - October	sun	normal to moist	bees, butterflies	
Eutrochium maculatum	Joe pye-weed	2-6'	purple, pink	July - September	sun to partial shade	normal to wet	bees, butterflies, hummingbirds	
Fragaria virginiana	Virginia strawberry	3-9"	white	May - August	sun to partial shade	dry	bees, butterflies	х
Gaillardia aristata	blanket flower	2-4'	yellow, red	Jun-Aug	full sun	dry to normal	butterflies, moths, bees	х
Galium boreale	northern bedstraw	1-3'	white to cream	May - August	sun to partial shade	normal to moist	flies, beetles	



Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Flower Color	Flower Season	Sun	Soil Moisture	Pollinators	Also a Host
Geranium richardsonii	Richardson's geranium	3'	white, pink	Jun-Aug	partial sun	moist	bees, beetles	х
Geranium viscosissimum	sticky purple geranium	1-3'	light pink, white	May-Aug	full to part sun	dry to moist, well-drained	bees	
Geum triflorum	prairie smoke	0-1'	red, pink, purple	Mar-Sep	full sun to shade	dry	butterflies, bees	
Glycyrrhiza lepidota	wild licorice	1-3'	white	Jun-Jul	partial sun to shade	moist	butterflies, bees	х
Grindelia squarrosa	curlycup gumweed	0-3'	yellow	June - September	sun	dry to normal	bees	
Hedysarum boreale	northern sweetvetch	1-3'	red, purple	April - August	sun	dry	bees, butterflies	х
Helenium autumnale	sneezeweed	1-5'	yellow	August - October	sun	moist	bees, butterflies	x
Helianthus petiolaris	prairie sunflower	3-5'	yellow	June - September	sun	dry	bees, butterflies	х
Helianthus maximiliani	Maximilian sunflower	4-6'	yellow	August - October	full sun	dry to moist	bees, butterflies	
Helianthus pauciflorus	stiff sunflower	1-2m	yellow	July - September	sun	dry	bees, flies	
Heterotheca villosa	hairy golden aster	2-4'	yellow	Jun-Oct	full sun	dry	flies, butterflies, wasps, bees	х
Heuchera richardsonii	alumroot	1-2'	purple, white to cream, green to brown	June - July	sun to partial shade	dry to moist	bees, flies, hummingbirds, butterflies	
Liatris ligulistylis	meadow blazingstar	1-3'	purple, pink	July - August	sun	dry to normal	butterflies, hummingbirds	
Liatris punctata	dotted blazingstar	1-3'	purple, pink	Jun-Oct	full sun	dry to normal	bees, flies, butterflies	х
Lilium philadelphicum	wood lily	1'	red, orange	June - August	sun to partial shade	dry	hummingbirds	
Linum lewisii	prairie flax	16-20"	purple, blue	Mar-Sep	full sun	dry to normal	bees, flies, butterflies	х
Lobelia spicata	palespike lobelia	1-3'	blue, purple, white to cream	June - August	sun to partial shade	dry to normal	hummingbirds	
Lupinus argenteus	silvery lupine	1.5′	blue/white	late summer	full sun	dry	bees	
Mertensia lanceolata			blue	spring	partial sun	moist	bees	
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	12-36"	pink, purple, white	May-Aug	full sun to partial sun	dry to moist	hummingbirds, butterflies, bees	

# PLANTS THAT ATTRACT POLLINATORS IN THE GREAT PLAINS - PALOUSE DRY STEPPE PROVINCE

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Flower Color	Flower Season	Sun	Soil Moisture	Pollinators	Also a Host
Monarda pectinata	pony beebalm	1.5′	pink	summer	full sun	moist	bees, wasps, butterflies	x
Oenothera caespitosa	tufted evening- primrose	4-12"	white	May-Aug	full sun	dry	butterflies, moths, bees	
Pediomelum argophyllum	silver scurfpea	1-3'	blue, purple	June - August	sun	normal to moist	bees, butterflies	
Penstemon albidus	white beardtongue	6-20"	white	April - June	sun	dry to well- drained	bees	
Penstemon confertus	yellow penstemon	1-2'	pale yellow, cream	June-July	full to part sun	dry to moist, well-drained	bees	
Penstemon angustifolius	broadbeard beardtongue	3'	blue	spring	full sun		bees, wasps	
Penstemon eriantherus	fuzzytongue penstemon	12-20"	purple	May-Jun	full sun	dry	hummingbirds, bees	
Phacelia hastata	silverleaf phacelia	6-24"	purple	May-July	full to part sun	dry	bees	
Penstemon gracilis	lilac-flowered beardtongue	12-18"	purple	May - June	partial shade	moist	bees, hummingbirds	
Phlox hoodii	spiny phlox	2-12"	white, pink, blue	Apr-Jul	full sun	dry	bees, flies, butterflies	
Pulsatilla patens	pasque flower	4-12"	blue, purple, white to cream	April - June	sun	dry to normal	bees	
Ratibida columnifera	prairie coneflower	18-24"	orange, yellow	Jun-Sep	full sun	dry to moist	bees, butterflies	
Rudbeckia hirta	black-eyed Susan	3-6'	yellow	Jun-Sep	full sun	dry to moist	bees, butterflies	х
Salvia azurea	pitcher sage	36"	blue	Sep-Oct	partial sun	dry	bees	
Sisyrinchium montanum	blue-eyed grass	5-20"	blue, purple	May - July	sun to shade	dry to wet	bees, flies, butterflies	
Solidago missouriensis	prairie goldenrod	1-3'	yellow	Jul-Sep	full sun	dry	bees, flies, butterflies	
Solidago nemoralis	grey goldenrod	3'	yellow	August - October	sun to partial shade	dry	bees, butterflies	
Solidago ptarmicoides	prairie goldenrod	1-2'	white, yellow	August - October	sun	dry to normal	butterflies	
Solidago rigida	stiff goldenrod	3-6'	yellow	August - September	sun	normal	butterflies	
Sphaeralcea coccinea	scarlet globemallow	1.5'	red/orange	spring	full sun	medium to coarse texture	bees	
Symphyotrichum ericoides	heath aster	1-3'	white to cream	August - October	sun	dry to moist	bees, butterflies	x



Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Flower Color	Flower Season	Sun	Soil Moisture	Pollinators	Also a Host
Symphyotrichum falcatum	creeping white prairie aster	2-3'	white to cream	August - September	sun	dry	bees, butterflies	
Symphyotrichum laeve	smooth blue aster	1-3'	purple, blue	Aug-Oct	full sun to partial sun	dry to moist	bees, butterflies	х
Tradescantia occidentalis	prairie spiderwort	0-1'	purple	Jun-Jul	full sun to partial sun	dry	bees	
Verbena hastata	blue vervain	2-7'	blue, purple	June - September	sun to partial shade	normal to wet	bees, butterflies	х
Verbena stricta	hoary verbena	1-4'	purple	Jul-Sep	full sun	dry	butterflies, bees	х
Vernonia baldwinii	Baldwin's ironweed	3-5'	purple	Jul-Sep	full sun	sandy to clayey loam	bees, flies, butterflies	
Vicia americana	American vetch	1.2′	purple	May-Jul	full sun to partial sun	dry to moist	bees, butterflies	х
Viola adunca	hookespur violet	4-8"	blue, purple	April - July	partial shade to shade	dry to moist	bees	
Viola canadensis	Canada violet	8-16"	orange, white to cream	April - June	shade	moist	bees	
Viola sororia	common blue violet	3-8"	blue, purple, white to cream	May - June	sun to partial shade	normal to moist	bees, butterflies	x
Zizia aptera	heart leaved Alexander	1-3'	yellow	May - June	sun to partial shade	normal	bees	
	·			Vines				
Cucurbita foetidissima	Missouri gourd	6-18″	yellow	May-Aug	full sun	alluvial	bees	
Vitis riparia	riverbank grape	30'	green	May-July	sun to shade	dry to moist	bees	
			S	helter Plan	ts			
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	4-8'	blue, red, green, brown	Jul-Nov	full sun to partial shade	dry to moist	butterflies, bees	x
Bouteloua curtipendula	sideoats grama	2-3'	yellow, orange, red	Jun-Nov	full sun to partial shade	dry to moist	butterflies, bees	х
Bouteloua gracilis	blue grama	1-3'	yellow	Jul-Oct	full sun	dry	butterflies	х
Danthonia spicata	poverty oatgrass	1-3'	green	May-Jul	full sun to shade	dry	butterflies	х
Schizachyrium scoparium	little bluestem	3-6'	yellow, white, green, brown	Jun-Dec	full sun to partial shade	dry	butterflies, bees	x
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	3-8'	yellow	Aug-Oct	full sun to shade	dry to moist	butterflies, bees	x

# HABITAT HINTS

# FOR THE GREAT PLAINS - PALOUSE DRY STEPPE PROVINCE

	BEE-POLLINATED GARDEN FLOWERS AND CROPS										
	Bumble	Digger	Lg Carpenter	Sm Carpenter	Squash/ Gourd	Leafcutter	Mason	Sweat	Plasterer	Yellow- faced	Andrenid
	FLOWERS										
Catalpa			х								
Catnip	х	х					Х				
Clover		x									х
Columbine	х										
Cow parsley										x	
Goldenrod	x	Х				х		Х			
Impatiens	x										
Irises	х		х								
Lavender	х	х	х			х					
Milkwort								х			
Morning glory				х							
Penstemon	х	х					Х				
Phacelia	х	х		х		х	Х	х	х		х
Potentilla										x	
Rose	x		х				х	х		x	
Salvia	x	х	х			х	х				
Saxifrages								х		x	
Sorrel				х							
Sunflowers	х	x	х	х		х		х	х		х
Violet								х			х
Wild Mustard		х							х		
Willow catkins									х		х
					CROPS						
Apple							х				
Blueberry	х	х									x
Cherry							х				x
Eggplant	x		х					х			
Gooseberry	x										x
Legumes	x	х				х		х			
Water melon	x							х			
Squash/ Pumpkins/ Gourds			х		x						
Tomatoes	х	х	х					х			
Thyme	х	х					х	х		x	



#### **Honey Bees:**

Honey bees are colonial cavity nesters. Occasionally in the spring and summer you might encounter a swarm of honey bees on the move to a new home. The majority of honey bees are managed by beekeepers in hives. Beekeepers with commercial operations can have bee yards with tens to hundreds of hives commonly in agricultural, rural and some natural habitats. In urban and garden settings it is common to see a single or a handful of honey bee hives – usually wooden boxes painted white or other light colors. Give honey bees have different feeding needs than native bees. Their colony can last multiple years and they feed on flowers from the beginning of spring bloom to the fall. Honey bees visit crops when they are in bloom and forage on a diversity of wildflowers as well. Honey bees also need plants that produce a large amount of nectar to make honey. Clovers, lavenders, mints, and sages are great nectar sources. Honey bees also like to feed off of the pollen of trees and shrubs such as maples, willows, and roses. Fields of goldenrod are an excellent pollen source.

#### **Bumble Bees:**

Bumble bees nest in cavities such as abandoned mouse nests, other rodent burrows, upside down flower pots, under boards, and other human-made cavities. Colonies are founded by a queen in the spring. The number of workers in a colony can grow to upward of 400 at the peak of summer bloom. Bumble bee colonies die out in the fall after producing new queens. New queens mate and then overwinter, hiding in underground cracks, or small crevices. Bumble bees are usually active during the morning hours and forage at colder temperatures than honey bees, even flying in light rain.

#### Large carpenter bees:

Large carpenter bees chew nests into dead wood, poplar, cottonwood or willow trunks and limbs. The also make nests in structural timbers including redwood and cedar. Depending on the species, there may be one or two brood cycles per year. These bees can be active all day even in the hottest and coolest weather.

#### **Digger bees:**

Digger bees can be found nesting in sandy, compacted soils, and along stream banksides. These bees are usually active in the morning hours, but can be seen at other times of the day as well. To attract these bees have some areas of exposed soil in your garden and avoid applying thick layers of mulch that are hard to dig through.

#### Small carpenter bees:

Small carpenter bees chew into pithy stems, including roses and blackberry canes, where they make their nests. These bees are more active in the morning but can be found at other times.

#### Squash and Gourd bees:

Squash and gourd bees prefer to nest in sandy soil but also may nest in gardens (where pumpkins, squash and gourds are grown). These bees are early risers and can be found in pumpkin patches before dawn. Males often sleep in wilted squash flowers.

#### Leaf-cutting bees:

Leaf-cutting bees nest in pre-existing circular tunnels of various diameters in dead wood created by emerging beetles. Some also nest in the ground. Leafcutter bees line and cap their nests with leaves or flower petals. These bees can be seen foraging throughout the day even in very hot weather.

#### Mason bees:

Mason bees use pre-existing tunnels of various diameters in dead wood made by emerging beetles, or human-made nesting substrates such as drilled wood blocks or cardboard tubes. These bees get their name from the fact that they cap their nests with mud. Mason bees are generally more active in the morning hours.

#### Sweat bees:

Sweat bees need bare ground in sunny areas not covered by vegetation for nesting. Some will nest in small pre-existing holes, much like leaf-cutting or mason bees. Like most bees, sweat bees forage for pollen earlier in the morning and then for nectar later in the day. To help these bees nest, keep some parts of your garden exposed and avoid applying thick layers of mulch that are hard to dig through.

#### Plasterer or cellophane bees:

Plasterer or cellophane bees get their name from the unique, clear waterproof lining they make around their nest. Similar to sweat bees they prefer bare ground, stream banks or slopes. These bees can be active in the morning or later in the day.

#### Yellow-faced bees:

Yellow-faced bees are tiny, hairless bees that make their nesting by chewing into small dead stems. These bees are more active during morning hours.

#### Mining bees:

Mining bees prefer sunny, bare ground, and sand soil. They are also known to nest under leaf litter or in the soil along banksides and cliffs. Mining bees are active in the spring and most commonly seen on flowers during the morning when pollen and nectar resources are abundant.

## A BASIC CHECKLIST

### S.H.A.R.E. - SIMPLY HAVE AREAS RESERVED FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

- Planting for pollinators is the first step. Put your pollinator habitat on the S.H.A.R.E. map and connect to pollinator conservation efforts across North America. Visit pollinator.org/SHARE
- Farmers can also certify their habitat with Bee-Friendly Farming. Visit pollinator.org/bff

# BECOME FAMILIAR WITH POLLINATORS IN YOUR LANDSCAPE.

- Watch for activity throughout the day and the seasons.
- Keep a simple notebook of when and what comes to your garden.
- Take part in citizen science monitoring and get involved in local programs.
- Consult a local field guide or web site when you are ready to learn more details.

# ADD NATIVE PLANTS TO ATTRACT MORE NATIVE POLLINATORS.

- 🕷 List the plants you currently have in your landscape.
- Determine when you need additional flowers to provide nectar and pollen throughout the growing season.
- X Add plants that provide additional seasons of bloom, create variable heights for shelter, and attract the types of pollinators you want.
- Solution Don't forget to include host plants that provide food and shelter for larval development.
- Contact your local native plant society or extension agent for more help.

### USE POLLINATOR FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE PRACTICES TO SUPPORT THE POLLINATORS YOU ATTRACT.

- Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices to address pest concerns.
- Tolerate a little mess leave dead snags and leaf litter, keep areas bare for ground nesting insects, and leave some weeds that provide food for pollinators.
- Provide safe access to clean water.

### NOTICE THE CHANGES THAT YOU HAVE HELPED TO CREATE!





### RESOURCES

Many books, websites, and people were consulted to gather information for this guide. Use this list as a starting point to learn more about pollinators and plants in your area.

### **ECOREGION PROFILE**

USDA Forest Service https://www.fs.fed.us/land/ecosysmgmt/colorimagemap/images/331.html

Forest\* A \*Syst https://www.forestasyst.org/ecoregions/331.cfm

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Endangered Species https://www.fws.gov/endangered/

### POLLINATION/POLLINATORS

Pollinator Partnership www.pollinator.org

North American Pollinator Protection Campaign www.nappc.org

Natural Resources Conservation Service https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/

USDA Forest Service https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/

Wild Farm Alliance https://www.wildfarmalliance.org/

North American Butterfly Association www.naba.org

Xerces Society Pollinator Program http://www.xerces.org/

Buchmann, S.L. and G.P. Nabhan. 1997. *The Forgotten Pollinators* Island Press: Washington, DC.

Committee on the Status of Pollinators in North America. 2007. Status of Pollinators in North America The National Academies Press: Washington, DC.

### **NATIVE PLANTS**

Plant Conservation Alliance https://www.blm.gov/programs/ natural-resources/native-plantcommunities/national-seed-strategy/ pca

#### **Seeds of Success**

https://www.blm.gov/programs/ natural-resources/native-plantcommunities/native-plant-and-seedmaterial-development/collection

South Dakota State University Agricultural Experiment Station https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/cgi/ viewcontent.cgi?article=1568&conte xt=agexperimentsta\_bulletins

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center https://www.wildflower.org/

# FEEDBACK

We need your help to create better guides for other parts of North America. Please e-mail your input to **feedback@pollinator.org**.

- How will you use this guide?
- Do you find the directions clear? If not, please tell us what is unclear.
- Solution Is there any information you feel is missing from the guide?

Solution Any other comments?

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO HELP!

# NOTES









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