



**POLLINATOR  
PARTNERSHIP**

Protect their lives. Preserve ours.

# POLLINATOR GARDEN GUIDELINES



*Spicebush swallowtail butterflies lay their eggs on their host plant, spicebush.*

A pollinator garden supports wildlife and offers lasting enjoyment. Consider these key elements for building a Bee Friendly Garden.

## **Prioritize plants that are native to your region.**

Native plants have co-evolved with local pollinators, offering essential pollen and nectar while thriving in your climate with minimal watering and chemical inputs. Native plants will support the wonderful diversity of native pollinators that are indigenous to your area.

**Incorporate a range of plants that provide food for pollinators from spring to fall.** Early spring and late fall can be difficult times for pollinators to find blooming plants, despite being critical periods in many pollinators' lifecycles.

**Include pollinator host plants.** Many pollinators have evolved specialized relationships with particular plant species and depend on them to lay their eggs. A well-known example of this is the reliance of monarch butterfly larvae on milkweed.

**Leave bare soil patches, stems, and dead stalks as nesting space.** While managed honey bees live in human-made hives, the vast majority of bee species nest underground, in plant stems, in old beetle burrows in wood, or in other natural cavities. Be inspired by nature to include some of these elements in your garden.

*Native plants attract a wide variety of pollinators.*



**Avoid insecticides.** Many insecticides can harm pollinators when they come into contact with them. Always read pesticide labels, follow pesticide restrictions (it's the law!), and look for warnings that they may be harmful to bees.

# COMPONENTS OF A BEE FRIENDLY GARDEN

**Bee Friendly Gardens** are as easy as 1, 2, 3!

## 1) Food Resources

Grow a diverse mix of native flowers with continuous blooms from spring to fall. Aim for at least three species per season. A more diverse floral palette will support a greater variety of wildlife.

Flowering trees and shrubs, as well as wildflowers, are all good candidates for a pollinator garden. Also, include a variety of host plants to feed a diversity of butterfly larvae in your garden.



Check out our [Native Pollinator Garden Recipe Cards](#) to start a garden in your area.

## 2) Nesting Habitat and Shelter

While you can install artificial nest boxes, the best practice is to leave natural materials like fallen leaves, dead stems, and bare ground for pollinators to nest. Avoid excessive cleanup to support nesting habitat.

## 3) Safe, Chemical-Free Environment

Minimize pesticide use, as some pesticides can harm pollinators and herbicides reduce their food sources. Use chemicals only as a last resort.

Proper garden site prep is essential, but there are many approaches. Learn more through our [guide](#). Want more pollinator plants for your garden? Check out our [page](#) for seed and plant suppliers, or search your local native plant nurseries online.



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