

POLLINATOR CONSERVATION

3 Simple Steps

1. Create a diversity of bloom.

Bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects need abundant nectar and pollen sources throughout the growing season. Select native plants whenever possible, and provide blooming plants from early spring to fall.

2. Protect nests and egg-laying sites.

Consider leaving some bare spots in the garden for native ground-nesting bees. Butterflies often need specific host plants to feed on during their caterpillar stage.

3. Don't misuse pesticides.

Most lawn and garden problems can be solved without using pesticides.



REFERENCES/ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Carolina Butterfly Society—

www.carolinabutterflysociety.org

- Notes on gardening and butterflies of the Carolinas

NC Cooperative Extension Chatham County Center

growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu/growingsmallfarms-pollinatorgarden/

- Top 25 Piedmont Pollinator Plants
- Close-up photography of beneficial insects, their habits and needs.

Monarch Watch—www.monarchwatch.org

- Monarch Waystation Garden Certification
- Milkweed sources and growing guides

Pollinator Partnership—www.pollinator.org

- Micro Regional Planting Guides

For more information,
see our blog at wedigpollinators.net
or scan the QR code below!



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WE DIG POLLINATORS

A Garden within the Guilford County
Cooperative Extension
Master Gardener Volunteer
Demonstration Garden

ABOUT THE GARDEN

Our garden is a 1500 sq. ft. area of terraced space managed by eight Master Gardeners. This area of the Extension Master Gardener Demo Garden set aside for this project is being redesigned to be home to all kinds of pollinators.

We are thankful for the grant and expertise from the Carolina Butterfly Society in order to establish an appropriate native habitat for butterflies. Our research has made us aware of the plight of the monarchs and our garden has been certified as a Monarch Waystation by www.monarchwatch.org.

We are glad you stopped by and hope you will look for ways to encourage our pollinator friends to make their homes in your own yards and gardens!



PIEDMONT POLLINATORS & THEIR NEEDS

Each type of pollinator has needs that are met by various plants and conditions.

BEES

- Bees are particularly drawn to yellow, white, and blue/purple flowers.
- Try to plan bloom times so that food is available for pollinators throughout the year.
- Allow some veggies to bolt and bloom, such as broccoli and mustard, whose dazzling yellow blossoms are adored by bees.

BUTTERFLIES

- Simple flowers, not hybrid doubles, are best for butterflies.
- Monarch butterflies will only lay their eggs on milkweed. There are at least 7 varieties of milkweed native to the Piedmont.
- Place a few stones in your birdbaths so bees and butterflies can land on them to drink and not drown.

BATS

- Add a water feature. Bats like long, open expanses of water, 6-8 feet long, 2 feet wide, with no dangerous obstructions to block a zoom-in drink on the fly.

BIRDS

- The sound of water will attract thirsty birds.
- When hanging birdhouses, consider the size of the hole each type of bird prefers.

INSECTS

- Scatter companion plants throughout your garden that repel pests but attract beneficial insects, reducing the need for insecticides while feeding friends: marigolds, black-eyed susans, sweet alyssum, bee balm, borage, hyssop, catnip, basil, and yarrow.

TYPES OF PLANTS

Host Plants

When a caterpillar hatches from its egg, it will only feed on one type of plant as a host.

Nectar Plants

Nectar is a sugary substance secreted by plants to attract pollinators. It is collected by bees to make into honey.

Adult butterflies feed on flower nectar and are not as specific about nectar plants as they are host plants.

Shelter Plants

Properly placed, trees and shrubs will shelter your garden from wind, which makes it easier for bees and butterflies to explore your location. Butterflies also need a place to roost at night and to hide from predators.

