

Pollinator Garden Quick Tips



At first glance, a pollinator garden may look like any other pretty flower garden. But on closer inspection, it will have certain features that make the garden especially attractive to butterflies, bees, and moths, meeting their needs for all life stages.

Pollinator gardens require these building blocks:

Choose a sunny spot.

A minimum of 3 hours of sun is best for most plants.

Plant natives.

Use native plants to support native bees and butterflies. Natives support 29 times more insect species than aliens.

Provide shelter.

Structures, shrubs, and leaf and twig piles provide shelter for pupating butterflies and overwintering pollinators.

Plant variety.



By doing so, you'll attract a diverse assortment of pollinators.

Include a puddle.

A wet shallow pan with soil, rocks, and sponge pieces on the ground provides certain butterfly species with necessary nutrients.

Plant dense color blocks.

Help pollinators find food by planting 5 to 7 of the same plant and flower color together.

Use no pesticides in or near your garden.

Practice organic gardening methods.

Plant for three seasons.

Keep your pollinator food source going spring through fall.

Plant host plants.

Host plants for female butterfly's eggs and feeding caterpillars are essential for conserving butterflies. Milkweed is vital for saving the monarch butterfly.

Pollinator Plants for The Woodlands

Spring Blooming

Annual Phlox, <i>Phlox drummondii</i>	Salvia, <i>Salvia</i> spp.
Basket Flower, <i>Centaurea americana</i>	Sweet William, <i>Phlox divaricate</i>
Bee Balm, <i>Monarda</i> spp.	Verbena, <i>Verbena</i> spp.
Fragrant Phlox, <i>Phlox pilosa</i>	Yarrow, <i>Achillea millefolium</i>

Summer Blooming

Black-eyed Susan, <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Lantana, <i>Lantana</i> spp.
Blazing Star or Gayfeather, <i>Liatris</i> spp.	Porterweed, <i>Stachytarpheta</i>
Cardinal Flower, <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Purple Coneflower, <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>
Indian Blanket, <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Scarlet Sage, <i>Salvia coccinea</i>
Indigo Spires, <i>Salvia</i> "Indigo Spires"	Zexmenia, <i>Wedelia hispida</i>
Lanceleaf Coreopsis, <i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	

Fall Blooming

Autumn Sage, <i>Salvia greggii</i>	Goldenrod, <i>Solidago altissima</i>
Blue Mistflower, <i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Mealycup Sage, <i>Salvia farinacea</i>
Blue Wood Aster, <i>Symphyotrichum cordifolium</i>	Maximilian Sunflower, <i>Helianthus maximiliana</i>

Host Plants....

and their Butterflies

Aquatic Milkweed, <i>Asclepias perennis</i>	Monarch and Queen
Aster, <i>Aster</i> spp.	Pearl Crescent and Silvery Checkerspot
Butterfly Weed, <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Monarch and Queen
Citrus	Giant Swallowtail
Dill or Fennel	Eastern Black Swallowtail
Dutchman's Pipe, <i>Aristolochia macrophylla</i>	Pipevine Swallowtail
Green Milkweed, <i>Asclepias viridis</i>	Monarch and Queen
Pawpaw tree, <i>Asimina triloba</i>	Zebra Swallowtail
Purple Passionflower, <i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Gulf Fritillary
Snapdragons (cool-weather annual)	Common Buckeye
Spicebush, <i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush Swallowtail
Swamp Milkweed, <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Monarch and Queen
Variegated Dutchman's Pipe, <i>Aristolochia fimbriata</i>	Pipevine Swallowtail
Yarrow, <i>Achillea millefolium</i>	American Painted Lady

Important! If you have tropical milkweed, cut it to 4 to 6 inches of the ground in October to prevent the spread of OE and not interfere with migratory behavior.