POLLINATORS
Need Native Landscaping

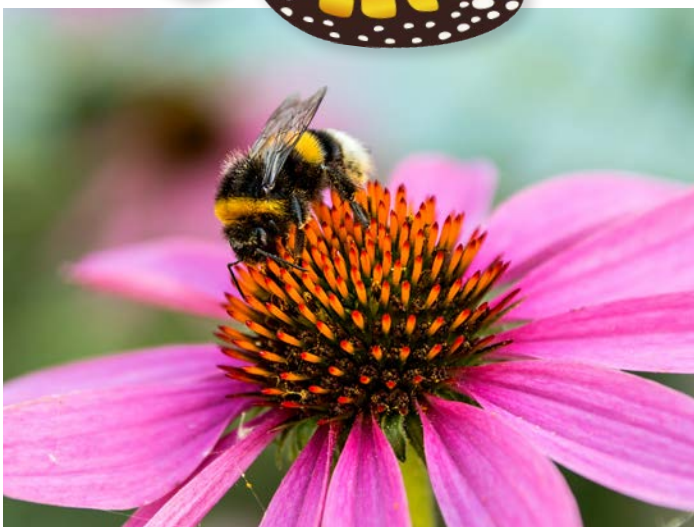
WHAT'S THE CONCERN?

We rely on pollinators to move pollen within flowers or from flower to flower for successful seed and fruit production of plants. They include butterflies, moths, bees, and birds. There is a serious decline in pollinators due to loss of habitat and nectar-producing plants, pesticide use, and climate change. Many are federally "listed species," meaning their populations are near threatening levels.

Increased urban development and agricultural practices in Iowa contribute to loss of habitat, especially for Monarch butterflies. They need connected corridors of habitat to move between food sources especially during migration. These and other pollinators help increase plant diversity and support nectar-flowering native Iowa prairie and woodland plants.

We can help out pollinators by creating habitat such as establishing native pollinator plant gardens in our yards. This will also improve the soil health in a yard so that it will soak up more rainfall and generate less stormwater runoff.

There are specific plant species that are desired by pollinators. Monarchs in particular need milkweed plants for their food source and for reproduction. Monarch butterflies are critical pollinators that increase plant diversity and support nectar-flowering native plants.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

You can help protect critical pollinators, like Monarch butterflies, by planting species that create habitat for pollinators. Nectar-flowering plants such as butterfly or swamp milkweed and prairie blazingstar provide excellent habitat for pollinators and produce vibrant colors in your garden. Native plant species also have the added benefit of creating deep root systems, which improve soil health by creating greater pore space.

Another simple method for helping pollinators thrive is to decrease the use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers. Ensure that you are only applying the amount of chemicals that are needed. Finally, encourage your friends and neighbors to consider planting native plants!

NATIVE PLANTS For Your Yard

Wild Geranium — *Early Blooming*

Scientific Name: Geranium maculatum
Height: 1 foot **Bloom Color:** Purple
Bloom Range: April-July
Sun: Partial/Full
Moisture: Mesic-Dry Mesic

Columbine — *Early Blooming*

Scientific Name: Aquilegia canadensis
Height: 2 feet **Bloom Color:** Red
Bloom Range: April-July
Sun: Partial/Full/Shade
Moisture: Mesic-Dry

Butterfly Milkweed — *Mid Blooming*

Scientific Name: Asclepias tuberosa
Height: 2 feet **Bloom Color:** Orange
Bloom Range: June-August
Sun: Partial/Full
Moisture: Mesic-Dry Mesic

Prairie Coreopsis — *Mid Blooming*

Scientific Name: Coreopsis palmata
Height: 2 feet **Bloom Color:** Yellow
Bloom Range: June-August
Sun: Partial/Full
Moisture: Mesic-Dry

Wild Petunia — *Mid-Late Blooming*

Scientific Name: Ruellia humilis
Height: 1 foot **Bloom Color:** Purple
Bloom Range: June-August
Sun: Partial/Full
Moisture: Mesic-Dry

Purple Prairie Clover — *Mid-Late Blooming*

Scientific Name: Dalea purpurea
Height: 2 feet **Bloom Color:** Purple
Bloom Range: July-September
Sun: Partial/Full
Moisture: Mesic-Dry

Cream Gentian — *Late Blooming*

Scientific Name: Gentiana flavida
Height: 3 feet **Bloom Color:** Cream
Bloom Range: August-September
Sun: Partial/Full
Moisture: Wet Mesic-Dry Mesic

Button Blazing Star — *Late Blooming*

Scientific Name: Liatris aspera
Height: 3 feet **Bloom Color:** Purple
Bloom Range: July-October
Sun: Partial/Full
Moisture: Mesic-Dry

New Jersey Tea — *Native Shrub*

Scientific Name: Ceanothus americanus
Height: 3 feet **Bloom Color:** White
Bloom Range: June-August
Sun: Partial/Full
Moisture: Mesic-Dry

Little Bluestem — *Native Grass*

Scientific Name: Andropogon scoparium
Height: 3 feet
Sun: Partial/Full
Moisture: Mesic-Dry

Prairie Dropseed — *Native Grass*

Scientific Name: Sporobolis heterolepis
Height: 3 feet
Sun: Partial/Full
Moisture: Wet Mesic-Dry

Side Oats Grama — *Native Grass*

Scientific Name: Bouteloua curtipendula
Height: 2 feet
Sun: Partial/Full
Moisture: Mesic-Dry

Indicates plant is a host for butterflies to lay eggs and provide food for caterpillars as they grow.

Indicates plant is a significant source of nectar for adult pollinators.