

Creating Pollinator & Native Plant Gardens: The Little Things Run the World



Ruby-throated Hummingbird feeding on trumpet honeysuckle



Flower beetle

Every time you walk into your garden to enjoy a beautiful flower or pick a fruit, you might thank a bee, butterfly or hummingbird. These and other kinds of animals are pollinators – they move pollen from one flower to another flower of the same species, helping plants to produce fertile seeds.



Pollen wasp

Eighty percent of the world's crop species and most native plants rely on animals for pollination. However, biologists fear several butterfly and bumble bee species have disappeared from parts of their range because of habitat loss, introduced diseases, pollution and pesticide poisoning.



Hover fly

How can you help pollinators?

- Grow native plants in your garden.
- Plant a diversity of flowering species.
- Don't use pesticides or herbicides.
- Provide sunny, bare soil areas for ground-nesting bees.

Half-black bumble bee on eastern purple coneflower



Eastern Tailed-blue butterflies and larva on sundial lupine



White-lined sphinx moth on yellow evening primrose



Brown-belted bumble bee on butterflyweed



See if you can spot these pollinators in this garden.

Orchard mason bees on great blue lobelia



Green sweat bee on blanketflower



Illustrations by Nancy Selzer