

THE DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION PRESENTS:

Toronto Plant Guide for attracting Pollinators

\$5.00

*A guide to native plants that attract bees
and other pollinators to your home garden.*



The Plant Guide for Attracting Pollinators

is part of an effort by the David Suzuki Foundation to raise awareness about the value of plant and wildlife diversity in the Greater Toronto Area.

Whether it's in the city or in the country, nature provides invaluable services that humans benefit from, such as storing carbon, purifying water and air, pollinating plants and cycling nutrients. Choosing the right plants for your garden can help support local pollinators and the natural process of pollination.

This guidebook will help you choose plants that will make your garden beautiful, easy to maintain and beneficial to local plant and wildlife diversity.

If you enjoy this guide, check out *A Guide to Your Local Pollinators*-a guidebook to the many bees and bee impersonators that visit your home garden. To learn more about the role bees play in the pollination of plants (including the fruits and vegetables that we eat), visit: www.davidsuzuki.org/Conservation/Endangered_Species/pollinators/



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Why use Native Plants?

Pollinators are more attracted to native plants than to other horticultural varieties or cultivars. One study showed that native plants were at least four times more likely to attract native bees. Why? Many ornamental varieties have reduced rewards for flower visitors (pollen and nectar), often as a result of breeding for larger or showier flowers.

Another reason to use native plants in your garden is that they are usually well adapted to your local growing conditions and can thrive with minimum attention. Examples of some common pollinator-friendly plants that are native to Ontario are given in this booklet, along with an indication of what pollinators may be attracted to them.

For more information, please contact the David Suzuki Foundation or visit pollinator.org or pollinationcanada.ca.

Legend:



tree (single or few stems)



attracts birds



vine



wild flower



attracts bees



shrubs (multiple stems)



attracts butterflies



attracts flies



Pollinators

...what's the Buzz?

What is Pollination & What is a Pollinator?

Pollination occurs when pollen grains are moved between two flowers by wind or animals. Successful pollination allows plants to reproduce. Almost 90% of flowering plants rely on animal pollinators for fertilization, and about 200,000 species of animals act as pollinators. In Canada alone, over \$1.2 billion worth of horticultural produce depends upon insects for pollination! Without pollinator visits to apples, cherries, almonds, blueberries, melons, pears, pumpkins, raspberries, tomatoes, and other fruiting plants in our gardens, our produce and our economy would be vastly diminished.



Apple flowers need the help of bee pollinators in order to produce fruits. Farmers often put colonies of bees in orchards to ensure that this occurs.

Types of Pollinators

There are five major families of bees that carry out pollination in Ontario: the Apidae (honeybees, bumble bees, carpenter bees, some other solitary bees), Andrenidae (andrenid bees), Halictidae (sweat bees), Megachilidae (leafcutter and mason bees) and Colletidae (plasterer bees).

Flower or hover flies (Syrphidae) resemble bees and wasps, having colour patterns and flight behavior that closely mimics them. These flies help in pollinating many flowers, and are beneficial to gardens because the larvae of most species prey on aphids and other small plant pests.

Monarchs and skippers are just two conspicuous examples of the many butterflies (Lepidoptera) that visit flowers for nectar. As well, they use plants as hosts, providing food for their larvae. Hummingbirds are also pollinators, being particularly associated with red, tubular flowers with copious amounts of energy-rich nectar.



Examples of three pollinator groups (L-R): skippers on swamp milkweed, hover fly on daisy fleabane, hummingbird on delphinium.