



Half-black bumble bee and Rocky Mountain bee plant



White-lined sphinx moth and yellow evening primrose



Two-tailed tiger swallowtail and western serviceberry

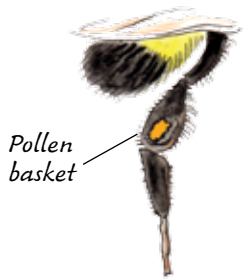
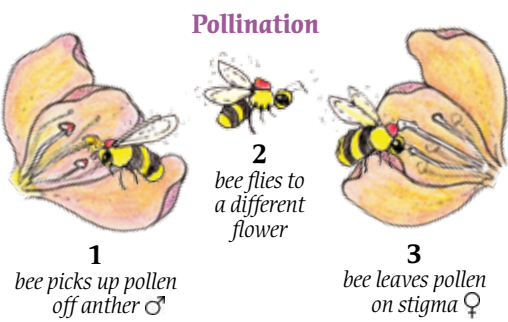


Rufous Hummingbird and orange honeysuckle

Pollinator and Native Plant Gardening Tips

What are pollinators and why should we care?

We call bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, moths, beetles, wasps, & bats **pollinators**. When pollinators visit flowers in search of food—nectar and pollen—they fertilize them by moving pollen grains from the male part to the female part of a flower, which is called **pollination**.



Pollen basket

Bees intentionally pick up pollen to feed their young, while other pollinators pick up pollen accidentally. Either way, that's good news because flowers need pollinators and we do too.

Watch bumble bees closely and you'll see them groom pollen from their body hairs into "pollen baskets," or corbicula, for transport to the nest.

Leaf-cutter bee picking up pollen from goldenaster



Have you seen a holey leaf like this in your garden? It's a good thing because it shows pollinators are present. Female leaf-cutter bees cut out small, circular leaf pieces to use to line their underground nest chambers.

Why are pollinators important?

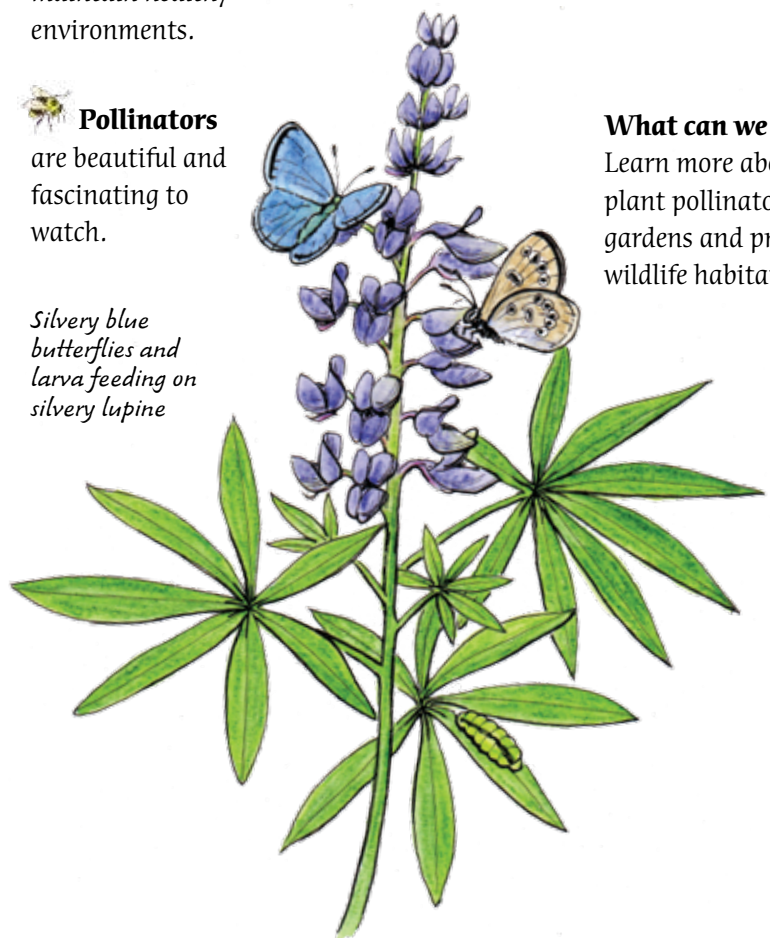
Pollinators pollinate plants, which produce one-third of the food we eat—fruits, vegetables, grains, nuts, beans and chocolate.



Pollinators help maintain healthy environments.

Pollinators are beautiful and fascinating to watch.

Silvery blue butterflies and larva feeding on silvery lupine



What can we do to help?

Learn more about them, plant pollinator-friendly gardens and protect wildlife habitats.



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24 Fort Missoula Rd.
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120 Hickory St.
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Montana Natural History Center

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For more information about pollinators, visit:
www.pollinator.org
U.S. Forest Service at
www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers
The Xerces Society at
www.xerces.org

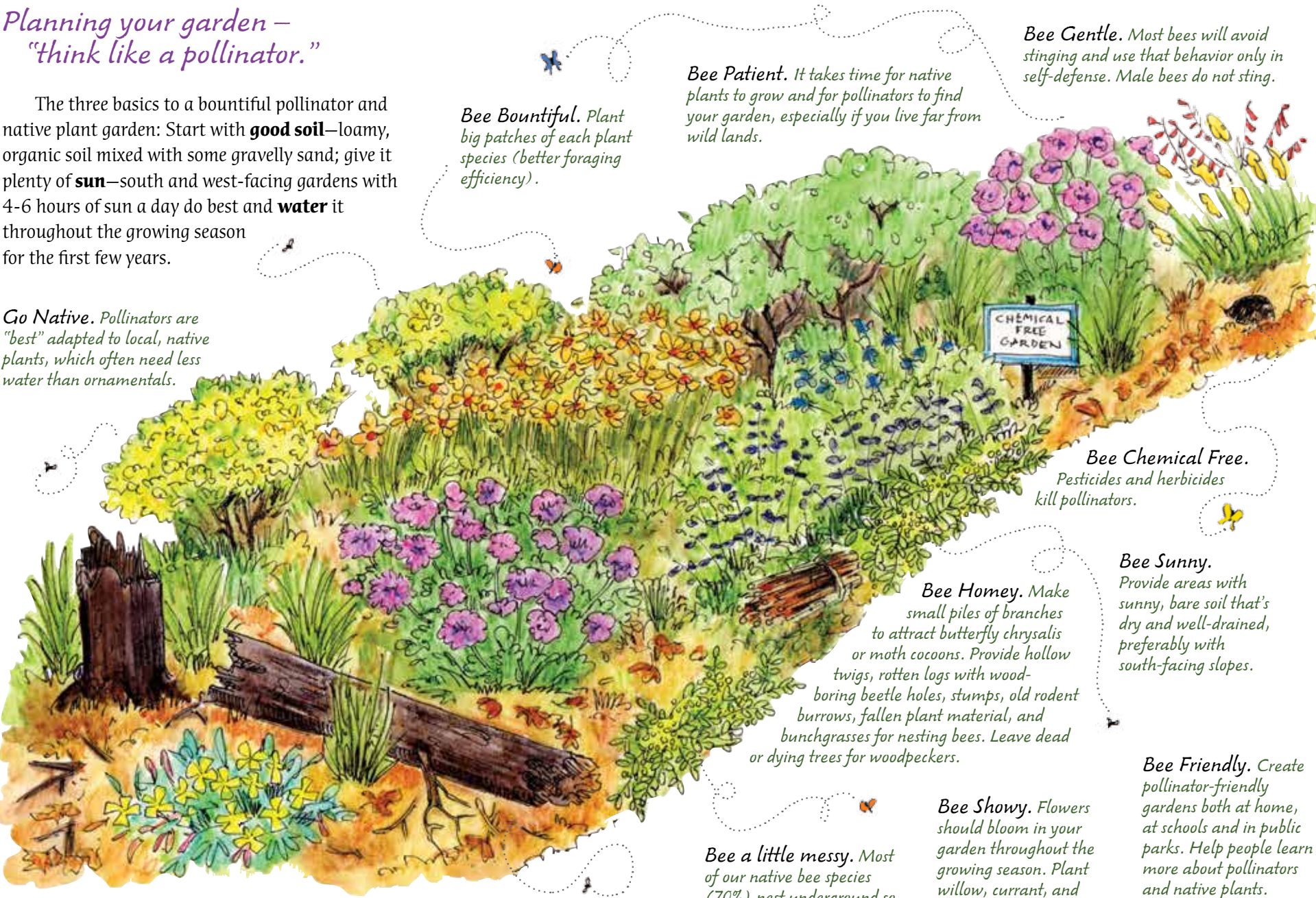


Bumble bee and penstemon flower

Planning your garden –
“think like a pollinator.”

The three basics to a bountiful pollinator and native plant garden: Start with **good soil**—loamy, organic soil mixed with some gravelly sand; give it plenty of **sun**—south and west-facing gardens with 4-6 hours of sun a day do best and **water** it throughout the growing season for the first few years.

Go Native. Pollinators are “best” adapted to local, native plants, which often need less water than ornamentals.



Bee Bountiful. Plant big patches of each plant species (better foraging efficiency).

Bee Patient. It takes time for native plants to grow and for pollinators to find your garden, especially if you live far from wild lands.

Bee Gentle. Most bees will avoid stinging and use that behavior only in self-defense. Male bees do not sting.

Bee Chemical Free. Pesticides and herbicides kill pollinators.

Bee Sunny. Provide areas with sunny, bare soil that's dry and well-drained, preferably with south-facing slopes.

Bee Friendly. Create pollinator-friendly gardens both at home, at schools and in public parks. Help people learn more about pollinators and native plants.

Bee Homey. Make small piles of branches to attract butterfly chrysalis or moth cocoons. Provide hollow twigs, rotten logs with wood-boring beetle holes, stumps, old rodent burrows, fallen plant material, and bunchgrasses for nesting bees. Leave dead or dying trees for woodpeckers.

Bee a little messy. Most of our native bee species (70%) nest underground so avoid using weed cloth or heavy mulch.





























































Bee Showy. Flowers should bloom in your garden throughout the growing season. Plant willow, currant, and Oregon grape for spring and aster, rabbit brush and goldenrod for fall flowers.

Bee Diverse. Plant a diversity of flowering species with abundant pollen and nectar and specific plants for feeding butterfly and moth caterpillars.






Think safe harbor. Domestic cats can kill hummingbirds. Please keep them indoors.

Native Plants from our Region that Attract Pollinators

No.	Color	Common name	Scientific name	 Bees	 Butterflies	 Moths	 Hummers	Bloom Time	Height	Sun
1		Beebalm	Monarda fistulosa	●	●		●	July-Aug	12"-28"	
2		Black-eyed Susan	Rudbeckia hirta	●	●			July-Sept	36"-48"	
3		Blue Flax	Linum lewisii	●				May-Sept	12"-30"	
4		Blue Violet	Viola adunca	●	●			April-June	2"-4"	
5		Blanketflower	Gaillardia aristata	●	●			June-Sept	12"-36"	
6		Chokecherry	Prunus virginiana	●	●			April-May	3'-12'	
7		Fireweed	Chamerion angustifolium	●		●	●	July-Sept	3'-6'	
8		Gayfeather	Liatris punctata	●				Aug-Sept	8"-24"	
9		Globemallow	Sphaeralcea coccinea	●				Aug-Sept	10"- 8"	
10		Golden Currant	Ribes aureum	●	●		●	April-May	3'-6'	
11		Hairy False Goldenaster	Heterotheca villosa	●	●			July-Sept	6"-12"	
12		Hooker’s Evening Primrose	Oenothera elata	●	●	●		June-Aug	24"-48"	
13		Oregon Grape	Mahonia repens	●	●		●	April-June	4"-8"	
14		Purple Coneflower	Echniacea angustifolia	●				July-Sept	12"-36"	
15		Red-osier Dogwood	Cornus sericea	●	●			April-June	3'-10'	
16		Rigid Goldenrod	Solidago rigida	●	●	●		Aug-Sept	18"-36"	
17		Round-leaf Alumroot	Heuchera cylindrica	●			●	June-Aug	8"-14"	
18		Rubber Rabbitbrush	Ericameria nauseosa	●	●			Aug-Oct	3'-5'	
19		Scarlet Gilia	Gilia aggregata				●	July-Aug	12"-36"	
20		Serviceberry	Amelanchier alnifolia	●	●		●	May-June	3'-15'	
21		Smooth Blue Aster	Aster laevis	●				Aug-Sept	12"-36"	
22		Sulfur Buckwheat	Eriogonum umbellatum	●	●			July-Sept	4"-16"	
23		Sunflower	Helianthus maximiliani	●	●			July-Sept	3'-10'	
24		Western Honeysuckle	Lonicera ciliosa		●		●	April-July	vine	
25		White Prairie Aster	Symphyotrichum falcatus	●		●		Sept-Oct	12"-24"	
26		Wilcox’s Penstemon	Penstemon wilcoxii	●			●	June-Aug	12"-18"	
27		Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	●		●		June-Aug	8"-30"	
28		Yellow Columbine	Aquilegia flavescens	●			●	June-Aug	12"-36"	

*These are native plants that can be grown in a garden.

 full sun  partial shade  shade