FULL SUN POLLINATOR GARDEN

A pollinator garden is a cultivated landscape with plants that attract and provide food for pollinators such as butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds. University of Illinois Extension estimates that one of every four mouthfuls of food and drink are due to pollinators, so it is in our best interest to support them. This guide features a planting plan that creates year-round interest for people and extends the foraging season for pollinators. Another benefit is that the native plant’s long root system improves the soil’s ability to absorb water. Please note that while only native plants are used in this example, non-natives can also benefit pollinators. For more information, visit the University of Illinois Extension Horticulture website: extension.illinois.edu/global/horticulture.

ADDITIONAL PLANTING OPTIONS

SPACING OPTIONS: If you have more space, duplicate the planting plan located on the inside of this brochure. For less space, consider these two smaller options for 4’ x 10’ Pollinator Garden beds:

RAIN GARDEN OPTIONS: While the plants in this brochure are all sun-loving species, they prefer a variety of moisture levels. For placement in a rain garden, they are best suited for slopes and higher banks. See the cross-section of a typical rain garden for recommended locations.

WHERE TO FIND PLANTS AND MORE INFORMATION

The plant palette is inspired by the Red Oak Rain Garden: redoakraingarden.org. The Illinois Native Plant Society webpage lists sources of native plants: illinoisplants.org. For more information about plants, see the University of Illinois Extension Horticulture website.

PUT YOUR NATIVE PLANT GARDEN ON THE MAP

You can be part of a network of native plantings by registering your Illinois native plant garden or rain garden. This helps build community and encourage native plant use. Add your native plant garden to the map: go.illinois.edu/GardenMap.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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**POLLINATOR GARDEN**
**NATIVE PLANTS FOR ATTRACTING POLLINATORS**

**PLANTING PLAN FOR A 6’ x 25’ BED**

**GROUND COVER:** Prairie Dropseed (8)

**SEASONAL:** Foxglove Beardtongue (2), Purple Prairie Clover (3), Orange Butterflyweed (3), Common Mountain Mint (3), Smooth Blue Aster (3)

**STRUCTURAL:** Pale Purple Coneflower (5), Gray-Headed Coneflower (3), Wild Bergamot (3), Rough Blazing Star (5), Little Bluestem (3)

See the Red Oak Rain Garden Brochure for information related to the Ground Cover, Seasonal, and Structural categories.

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**WHY CHOOSE THESE SPECIES:**
- Foxglove Beardtongue (Penstemon digitalis): attracts butterflies and bees, dries out during hot, dry summers.
- Purple Prairie Clover (Dalea purpurea): attracts butterflies, dries out during hot, dry summers.
- Pale Purple Coneflower (Echinacea pallida): attracts butterflies, dries out during hot, dry summers.
- Gray-Headed Coneflower (Ratibida pinnata): attracts butterflies, dries out during hot, dry summers.
- Wild Bergamot (Monarda fistulosa): attracts butterflies, dries out during hot, dry summers.
- Common Mountain Mint (Pycnanthemum virginianum): attracts butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds.
- Rough Blazing Star (Liatris aspera): attracts butterflies, dries out during hot, dry summers.
- Smooth Blue Aster (Symphyotrichum laeve): attracts butterflies, dries out during hot, dry summers.

**REFERENCES:**
- Asclepias tuberosa (Orange Butterflyweed)
- Echinacea pallida (Pale Purple Coneflower)
- Pycnanthemum virginianum (Common Mountain Mint)
- Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Bluestem)
- Sporobolus heterolepis (Prairie Dropseed)
- Monarda fistulosa (Wild Bergamot)
- Ratibida pinnata (Rough Blazing Star)
- Symphyotrichum laeve (Smooth Blue Aster)

Some of these species freely self-seed if seed heads are left standing post-bloom. If this is an issue, remove spent flowers and seed heads. Some plants may migrate from one location to another over time. If this is not desired, transplant them back to preferred locations.