

## POLLINATOR or FLOWER VISITOR?

Not all animals who visit flowers transfer pollen and successfully pollinate the plant. This means we shouldn't refer to an animal as a pollinator just because it feeds on pollen or nectar.

However, many of these visitors who are not effective pollinators still rely on flowers to meet their nutritional needs.



Pollen provides proteins, minerals, fats, and trace nutrients.

Nectar is primarily a source of carbohydrates.

Some flower visitors, including bees, collect both pollen and nectar. Pollen is typically food for developing larvae.



Butterflies, moths, and many others whose larvae feed on leaves or other insects visit flowers primarily for nectar.

## WANT TO LEARN MORE? check out these resources:

**Pollinator Partnership**  
[www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org)

**Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation**  
[www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org)

**Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center**  
[www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)

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# Providing Habitat for **POLLINATORS** and other flower-feeding insects





## GROW NATIVE PLANTS

Incorporating native plants into your landscape is the single best step you can take towards creating habitat for flower feeding insects, as well as herbivores like caterpillars.

Plants and the insects who feed on them have a close evolutionary history. Just as we humans can't survive on a single food, most bees and many other insects need a varied diet to meet their nutritional requirements. Caterpillars often feed only on a single genus or family of plants.

By providing the host plants these insects need to thrive you not only support insect populations, but also insectivorous breeding birds.

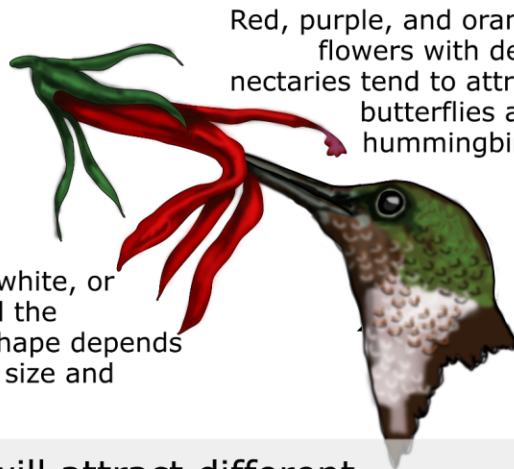


## DIVERSIFY FLOWER SHAPES and COLORS



Open flowers with space to land attract a variety of visitors.

Bees prefer blue, white, or yellow flowers and the preferred flower shape depends on the bee's body size and tongue length



Red, purple, and orange flowers with deep nectaries tend to attract butterflies and hummingbirds

Different combinations of flower traits will attract different groups of insects. By getting familiar with these patterns - or Pollination Syndromes- you can select plants to attract particular types of flower visitors.

## PROVIDE FORAGE ALL SEASON

To ensure your garden is a wildlife smorgasborg from Spring to Fall, choose plants that bloom at different times so pollen and nectar are available throughout the growing season. Many native woody plants and woodland spring ephemerals are some of the earliest to bloom. Goldenrod and asters provide forage late into fall.



## PROVIDE HOST PLANTS for SPECIALISTS

Just how the monarch caterpillar only feeds on milkweed, many native bees specialize on the pollen of one or a few plant species. If you want to attract butterflies and specialist bees, you will need to plant their favorite plants! Sunflowers, goldenrods, and *Vaccinium* spp. (blueberries and relatives) all have specialist native bees.