

HOW TO PLANT FOR POLLINATORS IN COLORADO

WHAT ARE POLLINATORS?

A pollinator is any animal that causes a plant to produce fruit or seeds. The animal spreads pollen to different parts of the flower, which fertilizes the plant. Once the plant is fertilized, it's able to make more fruit and seeds, enabling them to reproduce. Honey bees are the most common pollinator; however, there are many different kinds of pollinators. Bees, butterflies, beetles, wasps, flies, some birds, and some bats are all pollinators.

WHY ARE POLLINATORS IMPORTANT?

Can you imagine a world without fruit? Without coffee? Without chocolate? Thanks to pollinators, that doesn't have to be a reality. About 1,300 types of plants are grown for food, beverages, condiments, spices, fabric, and medicines, and 75 percent of those plants cannot flourish without pollinators. They play a huge role in what we consume.

Pollinators also help create and maintain ecosystems and habitats other animals use for food and shelter. They also help reproduce 90 percent of flowering plants. However, there has been a recent fast decline in pollinator populations. This alarming downward trend is credited to the excessive use of pesticides. However, planting to attract pollinators and controlling your use of pesticides can help alleviate this issue and support the environment.

WHAT PLANTS ATTRACT POLLINATORS?

There are many different trees, shrubs, flowers, and crops that require and attract pollinators. Quite a few of these plants have flower seasons in the Colorado summer months. Here are some options:



TREES & SHRUBS

- Hawthorns
- Mexican Cliffroses
- Apache Plumes
- Crabapple Trees
- Apple Trees
- Cherry Trees
- Lilacs
- Spirea



ANNUAL & PERENNIAL FLOWERS

- Bee Balm
- Clover
- Irises
- Lavender
- Roses
- Sunflowers
- Violets
- Hyssop
- Russian Sage
- Catmint
- Sedum
- Yarrow



CROPS

- Mint
- Basil
- Sage
- Thyme
- Cherries
- Strawberries
- Apples
- Blueberries
- Tomatoes
- Squash
- Pumpkins
- Gourds