



Interested in planting a pollinator garden?

Planning and planting a garden can not only be a rewarding activity, but can make a big difference in the biodiversity of your own backyard. Here are some of the best resources I've found if this is something you might like to do.

Sourcing Plants:

Fall is a perfect time to design and plant a pollinator garden. It seems counterintuitive to some, but fall planting of perennials allows for those plants to get established for a strong show come spring.

Landscaping plugs are young perennials that are 'root ready' for installation directly into the landscape. They are cost effective and make possible the installation of big drifts of plants that are so important to pollinators being able to find important forage.

- [Lists of local native plant nurseries \(PA, VA, MD, NY, DE, WV\)](#)
- [The Pollen Nation](#)
- [IZEL Native Plants](#)
- Native seeds from [Prairie Moon Nursery](#), [Ernst Seeds](#) or others..



Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council

This list was compiled by Kim Patten as a companion to her Blog post "The Ecology of the Heart", which was featured on the CCLC blog in September of 2020

Fall is also caterpillar season, and there are great resources for finding, identifying and raising caterpillars. A great companion to a garden project, but also fun for hikes through the woods and fields.

- *Raising monarchs can be really rewarding for kids of all ages. If you are raising monarchs from caterpillars, consider tagging them as well. [Monarch Watch](#) will send you free tagging supplies and instructions. This can be a cool multi year project too as the database is searchable and you can see if any of the butterflies you tag get found and reported along their journey. In the spring, Monarch Watch is a source free milkweeds; and they sponsor a habitat certification program for developing Monarch Waystations.*
- *[Journey North](#) , has great maps, incredible slideshows about all sorts of epic animal migrations.*
- *[The caterpillar lab](#) hosts an incredible You Tube channel that highlights the lifecycles and sheer diversity of moths and butterflies. Beautiful and definitely worth checking out!*

Education Resources:

I have been leaning heavily on an incredible resource compiled by Penn State's Center for Pollinator Research, [K-12 resources for teachers for pollinator ecology](#). This is a serious education treasure trove: Includes lesson plans, citizen monitoring guides, sample garden designs, PSU's Master Gardener Pollinator Garden Certification guides, as well as ways for older students to go deeper and perhaps even design their own research in this area. Here are some highlights of resources included in the link above:

- Is my habitat good for pollinators? [Use this guide](#) to see if your yard/garden provides a good habitat.
- Download the Penn State lesson plan, "Will the bees like it here? Measuring habitat quality for wild pollinators."
- If you want to sample bees using bee bowls, Sam Droege has an excellent video tutorial on this. [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#). Sam also has an amazing [Flickr account with incredible macro photographs](#) of native bees particularly.
- The [Handy Bee Manual](#) provides an excellent guide to sampling pollinators in your landscape, identifying them, and storing them. Additional information can be found on the [USGS Native Bee Inventory and Monitoring site](#).
- The [guide, Identifying & Observing Pollinating Insects in Pennsylvania](#), can help your students identify the main bee species in your landscape.
- The [Seek app from iNaturalist](#) can help you identify plant and pollinator species.
- The Penn State Master Gardeners' comprehensive [pollinator garden certification program](#), provides a detailed outline of how to create a pollinator garden.
- The Snetsinger Butterfly Garden website also provides many guidelines for creating pollinator gardens, include [sample garden plans](#).
- Through the Pennsylvania Game Commission's [Seedlings for Schools](#) program, you can obtain native, pollinator-attractive shrubs and trees.
- Not in Pennsylvania? The Pollinator Partnership has created a series of [eco-regional planting guides](#) that can help you select the right plants for your garden.
- You can explore the land use patterns and landscape quality for pollinators in your area through [Beescape](#).