

# Make your yard bee-friendly



An ideal pollinator landscape provides abundant food sources and nesting habitats. To help pollinators like the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, plant pollinator-friendly plants, minimize pesticide use, and maintain undisturbed areas. Pollinator gardens should rarely require pesticide intervention.

Plant	Bloom Period	Light
Large Beardtounge	Spring	
Yellow Violets	Spring	
Wild Geranium	Spring-Mid Summer	
Columbine	Spring-Mid Summer	
Purple Prairie Clover	Mid Summer	
Black Eyed Susan	Mid Summer	
Butterfly Milkweed	Mid Summer	
Ohio Spiderwort	Mid Summer	
Bee Balm	Mid-Late Summer	
Prairie Blazing Star	Mid-Late Summer	
Giant Hyssop	Mid-Late Summer	
Culvers Root	Mid-Late Summer	
Little Bluestem	Late Summer	
Callico Aster	Late Summer	



Rusty Patched Bumble Bee  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Key:

Hours of direct sunlight per day

6 or more

4 to 6

4 or less





## Create Nesting Habitat

- Leave downed logs, clumps of grasses, leaf litter, flower stems, rock piles and bare spots to provide nesting and overwintering habitat for pollinators.

## Managing Pests in your Yard

- Differentiate insect pests from beneficial predators/pollinators.
- Accept some insect damage on plants.

## Start with Non-Chemical Control

- **Mechanical control:**  
Hoe, mulch, or use barriers or traps to limit pests.
- **Cultural control:**  
Rotate annuals between seasons, modify watering schedule, or choose plants/varieties less attractive to pests.
- **Biological control:**  
Support natural enemies like parasitoids, predators, or pathogens.

## If You Must Use a Pesticide

- Look for pollinator warnings under a pesticide label's Environmental Hazards section and follow the label exactly. The label is the law.
- Apply when bees are not foraging (early morning or evening, or when air temperatures are below 55° F).
- Prevent drift and runoff from application site.

## Additional Resources

### Habitat and Financial Assistance

[bwsr.state.mn.us/practices/pollinator/index.html](http://bwsr.state.mn.us/practices/pollinator/index.html)

### Nesting and overwintering habitat information

[xerces.org/sites/default/files/publications/18-014.pdf](http://xerces.org/sites/default/files/publications/18-014.pdf)

### More Best Management Practices

[www.mda.state.mn.us/pesticide-fertilizer/best-management-practices-pollinators-and-their-habitat](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/pesticide-fertilizer/best-management-practices-pollinators-and-their-habitat)

### Plant / Nursery Finder

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/suppliers.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/suppliers.html)

## For questions email

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