# Perennials for Pollinators

Plan a Garden Bed of perennials and annuals that blooms all season

attracting bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and dragon flies.



Pollínators are essentíal to the food we eat and the flowers we enjoy









### POLLINATORS FOUND IN ALASKA

There are 49 species of Bumble Bees in the United States and 23 species found in Alaska.

Of the 75–80 species of butterflies that live in Alaska, 35–40 live right here in Anchorage and the nearby Chugach Mountains.

The Rufous is the only hummingbird commonly found in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska.







#### The Arctic Bumblebee





#### Bee found above the Arctic Circle



### Provide a safe habitat for nesting and resting

With the exception of honeybees, most bees are solitary creatures. 70% of solitary bees live underground, while 30% live in holes inside of trees or hollow stems. Species like bumble bees build their nests in undisturbed land, you can provide safe haven for them by leaving an untouched area in your garden! Leave tall grass and pieces of wood to give safe spaces. Wooden tubes allow species like mason bees to take up residence.



### Leave water for the bees and other insects to drink The marbles or rocks give them a place to land and drink safely











## Rufous Hummingbird A visitor to Alaska







### **Inviting New Friends To Our Gardens**

#### Feeding Hummingbirds Doesn't Delay Migration

While the hummingbirds enjoy having your backyard as a nectar source, they aren't relying on you 100 percent. They'll migrate when they're ready, whether or not feeders are available. It's instinct!

#### **Keep Feeders Clean**

Sugar water that has started to grow moldy can be dangerous to birds. If you're going to put out feeders, it's essential that you keep them clean and replace the mixture regularly—at least once every three or four days, more often in hot weather. If the mixture starts to look cloudy, clean the feeder and replace the nectar immediately.

#### Make Feeders Easy to Find

Hummingbirds are always looking around for food sources, and they're good at finding them, but you'll have more luck attracting hummingbirds if you put feeders in a place where it's easy to spot..

#### **Give Hummingbirds Some Space**

Goldfinches and some other songbirds may feed together peacefully, but hummingbirds often fight around feeders, chasing one another away. Hummingbirds are adapted to feeding at flowers, which will produce only limited amounts of nectar, so they instinctively protect their food sources even when they're at feeders with an unlimited supply. Try putting up two or more feeders that can't be seen from one another.

#### Place Feeders in the Same Place as Last Year

If the hummingbirds returning in spring seem to remember where you had flowers or feeders in previous years, they probably do. They have a highly developed sense of what scientists call spatial memory. This is a good reason to work extra hard at attracting hummingbirds. Once you get them established, they'll be back for more.

The Tanana Arctic butterfly. This is our only endemic butterfly meaning that it is specific to our region.

There are over 78 species of butterflies that enjoy the Alaskan summers.

All they need to stay around is nectar from your blooming plants.





Meet the Tanana Arctic butterfly, now recognized as a new species. PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW WARREN

WEIRD & WILD

### New Butterfly Discovered in Alaska for First Time in 28 Years

The Tanana Arctic may also be the state's only endemic butterfly.

This was taken from an article on the National Geographic web page.

A list of the butterflies found along Alaska's hiking trails is available on the website listed below:

http://www.turtlepuddle.org/alaskan/ak\_butterflies.html







Gallery of Alaska Museum uaf.edu

### Make a puddler for butterflies

Create a place for a butterfly to rest, rejuvenate and gain much needed minerals. Some sand, water, fruit and rocks in a shallow tray or terra cotta saucer.

Dog Rocks provides the minerals good for any creature and they are safe.











### Alaska's State Insect Four-spotted skimmer dragonfly

Alaska has 31 species of dragonflies **Dragonflies** are not **pollinators**, but some consider them beneficial to the garden because adults feed on mosquitoes, gnats, flies, swarming ants...just about any flying insect small enough for them to catch.







### **Tips for Attracting Pollinators**

- Single flowers those with one ring of petals around a central disc provide more nectar and pollen than pompom-shaped double flowers.
- Bees tend to be most attracted to blue, purple, and yellow flowers, though you'll find them on flowers of other colors, too.
- Include plants that are native to Alaska. They'll be adapted to our soil and climate conditions and will be magnets for wild bees and other native pollinators.
- Many pesticides, even organic ones, will harm pollinators. For example, if you use a pesticide to control caterpillars, you risk harming butterfly larvae. Attracting dragonflies can help with pests. Planting mint, lavender, marigolds and more can be a natural way to keep away unwanted pests.
- Include plants of various heights in your landscape, including flowering trees and shrubs.



### Pre planned garden designs readily available





Modifications to the plan might be needed or desired based on space limitations, proximity to buildings or other factors.

PENNSYLVANIA

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### Keep A Garden Journal

Here are some of the things you'll want to record in your journal:

- A sketch of your garden layout from season to season
- Pictures of your garden
- A list of successful plants and those to avoid in the future
- Plant tags, great resource for specific information
- Bloom times, if you have to replace something you will know when it bloomed.
- A list of plants you'd like to try, along with their growing requirements
- When you started seeds and transplanted plants
- Plant sources Mill and Feed has the best plants ©
- Expenses and receipts (*unless you don't want to know*)
- Daily, weekly and monthly observations
- Dates when you divide your perennials













### Plants that attract bees Perennials and Annuals

•Allium •Aster •Basil •Bee balm •Bee plant •Bergamot •Blanket flower •Borage •Cosmos •Flax •Four o'clock •Gaillardia •Geranium •Giant hyssop •Globe thistle •Goldenrod •Helianthus •Hyssop

•Joe-Pye weed •Lavender •Lupine •Marjoram •Mint •Mullein •Paint brush •Poppy •Rosemary •Sage •Skullcap •Sunflower •Thyme •Verbena •Veronica •Wallflower •Wild rose •Zinnia

**Trees, Shrubs and Fruit** •Almond •Apple •Blackcurrant •Cherry •Gooseberry •Hawthorn •Linden •Locust •Pear •Plum •Raspberry •Strawberry •Wild lilac •Willow •Rose Tree of China





Thyme

Zinnia



Safer Brand provides a great list found on the internet



Attracting pollinators and other beneficial insects is an important part for any thriving garden. That's why we've created this list of our favorite flowers that attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.





Floss Flower (Ageratum) ZONE 2-11



ZONE 2-11



Cosmos 'Sensation'

**ZONE 2-11** 



Mexican sunflower

ZONES 2-11



Milkweed

ZONES 3-9



#### Egyptian Star Flower (Pentas) Herbaceous Perennial ZONES 10-11



Pincushion flower (Scabiosa)

ZONES 5-9





Zinnia ZONES 2-11







Indian Paintbrush

Early Season ZONES 4-8



Early Season - Bulb ZONES 5-8



Bee Balm Midseason ZONES 4-9



Black-eyed Susan Midseason, Biennial ZONES 3-7



Hollyhocks (Alcea Rosea 'Nigra') Midseason, Biennial ZONES 2-9



Butterfly Weed

Midseason ZONES 3-9



**Giant Hyssop** 

...........

Midseason ZONES 6-9





Liatris (Blazing Star) Midseason ZONES 3-8



Lupine .....

Midseason, depends on variety ZONES 4-8



Mint Midseason ZONES 5-9



Phlox 

Midseason, depends on variety ZONES 2-9



**Purple Coneflower** (Echinacea) 

Midseason ZONES 3-8



**Red Valerian** (Jupiter's Beard) 

Midseason ZONES 5-8



Yarrow

Midseason ZONES 3-8



**Globe Thistle** Late Season

ZONES 3-8



Goldenrod ..................................

Late Season ZONES 3-8



Pineapple Sage .......

Late Season ZONES 8-10



Joe-Pye Weed 

Late Season ZONES 4-9



Stonecrop (Sedum) 

Late Season, depends on variety ZONES 3-8



# HUMMINGBIRD & BUTTERFLY







Plant a smorgasbord for their enjoyment and yours





Black & Blue Salvia Full sun/part shade Blooms all summer Deer resistant



Penta Full sun/part shade Heat tolerant Deer resistant







Cardinal Flower Shade Grows up to 4 ft. tall Graceful perennial



Lantana Full sun Blooms all summer Miss Huff is perennial

Trumpet Vine

Full sun/part shade

Blooms July-frost

Very low maintenance



Columbine

Partial Shade

Low maintenance Up to 3 ft. tall

Hibiscus Full sun Long blooming Striking colors



Butterfly Bush Full sun Long blooming Deer resistant



Crossvine Full sun/part shade 8-10 foot vine Blooms all summer







Verbena Full sun Long blooming varieties Blooms mid summer Homestead is perennial



#### **Selecting Plants For Your Pollinator Friendly Garden**

- It is important to select a variety of native plants as modern hybrids often produce less pollen and nectar and may dominate your garden.
- Native plants will attract more native pollinators and can serve as egg laying and larval host plants for some pollinator species.
- Some plants that are used for both nectar and larval food are Nootka lupine, camas, viburnum, aster, and clover. Additional pollinator-friendly Alaskan wildflowers include arnica, valerian, northern geranium, monkshood, yarrow, violets, Indian paintbrush, and western columbine. These colorful native species can provide nectar and pollen, are adapted to our climate, and require less care than garden exotics.
- Plant groups of native plants versus single plants to better attract pollinators. Large patches of each plant species help pollinators forage more efficiently.
- Bees cannot see red, but are attracted to some flowers that reflect ultraviolet light. Small bees have short tongues and prefer packed clusters of tiny flowers such as daisies and mint. Examples of bee-attracting flowers include monkey flowers, leopard's bane, shrubby cinquefoil, forget-me-nots, iris, and delphinium.



#### **Bees Love Lavender -Add Zone 3-4 Lavender**

In zone 3 and 4, planting these 4 varieties in the border of your vegetable garden will attract butterflies and bees, while repelling varmints that you don't want feeding in your garden. Plant "Phenomenal" at the back of the border, with Munstead in the middle and Hidcote at the front, to take advantage of the various heights from these fragrant plants. With lavender in zone 3 or 4, you don't have to take just one.

Munstead is an English lavender that is hardy from zones 4 to 9. If you get reliable snow cover you can grow it in zone 3, as well. It grows 12 to 18 inches tall and needs little care, other than winter protection.

Hidcote is hardy from zones 4 to 9. Like Munstead, you can get by in zone 3 with reliable snow cover or other winter protection. It has silver-grey foliage and the flowers are more purple than blue. The scent is rich, but it is a shorter plant than Munstead, only growing to 12 inches in height.

Don't confuse Hidcote Lavender with Hidcote Giant Lavender. Hidcote is an English lavender while Hidcote Giant is a lavandin (*L. x intermedia*).

Phenomenal is a hybrid introduction to the hardy lavender class, from the lavandin group. It is hardy from zone 4 to 8, as other hardy lavenders but it has the best traits of both French and English lavenders. It grows 24 to 34 inches tall, much taller than Munstead or Hidcote.

Phenomenal has silver foliage and lavender-blue flowers with a mounding habit typical of French Lavenders. It also has one of the highest essential oil contents of any lavender variety. It does well in hot, humid summers while still being hardy in winter conditions. It is an excellent choice for ornamental use in gardens, for fragrance, for fresh and dried arrangements, and for essential oil.







