

THE IMPORTANCE OF POLLINATORS

Pollinators, such as monarch butterflies, birds, and bees, are essential to healthy ecosystems and our food supply. Here is why they matter:



Monarch Butterflies

Monarchs are not only iconic for their beauty but also critical to pollinating wildflowers and contributing to ecosystem diversity. Their migration patterns support plant reproduction across vast regions, making them essential to the health of native habitats.



Bees

Bees are the most effective pollinators, responsible for pollinating over 75% of flowering plants and 35% of global crops, including fruits, nuts, and vegetables like apples, almonds, and tomatoes. Their role in crop pollination directly impacts food security and agricultural economies worldwide.



Birds

Hummingbirds and other pollinating birds assist in the pollination of tubular flowers like trumpet vines and salvias. Additionally, seed-dispersing birds contribute to forest regeneration and the growth of plant populations by spreading seeds across large areas.

ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

Pollinators ensure the reproduction of plants that form the base of food chains, provide habitats for other wildlife, and produce the oxygen we breathe.

Without pollinators, ecosystems would lose their balance, leading to a decline in biodiversity.

FOOD SECURITY

One out of every three bites of food we eat depends on pollinators. From coffee and chocolate to berries and melons, pollinators are essential to producing many of our favorite foods.

Without them, these crops would become scarcer and more expensive.

CULTURE & ECONOMIC VALUE

Beyond ecological importance, pollinators like monarchs and bees are symbols of resilience and beauty, inspiring art, culture, and conservation efforts. Their contributions to agriculture also have an estimated global value of \$235–\$577 billion annually.

MONARCH-FRIENDLY PRACTICES

And tips to attract a variety of pollinators



Rotary



San Luis Obispo
de Tolosa



PROVIDE WATER SOURCES

Pollinators need water to stay hydrated. Place shallow dishes or birdbaths filled with water and pebbles so they can safely drink and rest. Ensure water sources are clean and accessible.



AVOID INSECTICIDES

Insecticides and herbicides harm pollinators and their habitats. Use organic or natural alternatives, like neem oil or companion planting, to manage pests without chemicals.



PLANT NATIVE FLOWERS

Native plants are adapted to your region and provide the best food sources for pollinators. Include native milkweed for monarchs, sunflowers and lavender for bees, and brightly colored flowers for hummingbirds.



CREATE SHELTER

Pollinators need safe spaces to nest and rest. Add bee hotels, leave brush piles for nesting birds, and let some natural vegetation grow for cover. Low shrubs are especially helpful for monarchs in serving as a windbreak.



DIVERSE PLANTING

Grow a variety of plants that bloom at different times throughout the year. This ensures continuous nectar and pollen availability. For example, plant spring-blooming wildflowers like California poppies, summer-blooming lavender, and fall-blooming asters.



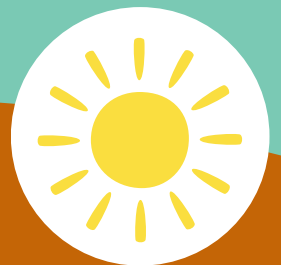
LIMIT LAWN SPACE

Large lawns are resource-heavy and provide little for pollinators. Replace unused areas with wildflower meadows, pollinator gardens, or ground cover plants like clover.



INCLUDE HOST PLANTS

Host plants are essential for pollinators to lay their eggs. Milkweed is a must for monarch caterpillars, though make sure to plant only native milkweed varieties rather than the orange and yellow tropical varieties.



SUNLIGHT

Monarchs are cold-blooded and require sunlight to warm up and fly. Design your garden in a sunny location and include flat rocks where monarchs can bask.



GO BEYOND FLOWERS

Trees like oaks, eucalyptus and willow provide food and shelter for a wide range of pollinators, but serve especially well for monarchs as an over-wintering habitat. Shrubs such as manzanita and ceanothus also attract bees and butterflies.