

Resources

Native Plant Suppliers:

- **Grow Wild! Native Plant Nursery**, Omeme
- **Native Plants in Claremont**, Pickering
- **Northern Wildflowers**, Sudbury
- **Sweet Grass Gardens**, Hagersville
- **Wildflower Farm**, Coldwater



Useful Websites

- **North America Native Plant Society:** www.nanps.org
- **Canadian Wildlife Federation - Wild About Gardening:** <https://education.cwf-fcf.org/wfnc/assignments/1118593>
- **Monarch Watch:** www.monarchwatch.org
- **Pollinator Guelph** <http://www.pollinationguelph.ca/>
- **Pollinator Partnership Canada:** <https://www.pollinator.org/canada>
- **Seeds of Diversity:** <https://seeds.ca/>
- **Xerxes Society:** www.xerxes.org

Pollinator Gardens and Nesting Sites Across Ontario

Over 100 Pollinator gardens and/or nesting sites have been created by OHA Societies/Clubs throughout Ontario.



- English and French Signs can be purchased through OHA Supplies via: <https://gardenontario.org/gardenshop>
- Please check out the OHA Pollinator Garden Grants, at: <https://gardenontario.org/resources/#grants-toggle>
- Text prepared by the OHA Conservation and Environment Committee
- *Photographs provided by Rose Odell and Kelly Taylor*

For more information, including where to find a local Society/Club, visit:
www.gardenontario.org

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Be Part of the Buzz...

Plant a Pollinator Friendly Garden Today



Talk to an OHA Society/Club for more information

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The OHA Pollinator Initiative

The Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) encourages gardeners across Ontario to improve pollinator health by planting pollinator-friendly gardens and/or by creating pollinator habitats and nesting sites.

Best Gardening Practices for Developing Pollinator Gardens

- Increase pollinator habitat in your yard, balcony or patio containers, window box, community garden plot, or hanging baskets.
- Choose a diverse variety of plants that bloom from early spring to late fall for successive bloom.



- Pollinator Patches need flowers that are rich in nectar and pollen, are easily accessible and come in a range of shapes, sizes and colours.
- Provide water in a shallow dish with a few rocks in it or a patch of wet sand or mud.

- Designate your patch pesticide free.
- Native plants are ideal followed closely by heirloom varieties and herbs. Select single flower tops such as daisies. Hybrid flowers are sometimes sterile and, if so, are of no use to pollinators.



Find a plant list suitable for your region. Check out the CanPlant (previously known as *Evergreen Native Plant Database*) (<https://can-plant.ca>)

- *Pollinator Partnership Canada's Eco-Regional Planting Guides* (<https://pollinator.org/>)
- Mass plants in clumps. Favourite pollinator colours are blue, purple, violet, white, and yellow.
- If children are involved, tall sunflowers are a beacon for bees and butterflies providing both nectar and pollen. Planting some in your food garden will improve pollination for your fruits and vegetables.

Best Practices for Nesting Sites

- Provide a variety of nesting materials in your garden such as hollow plant stems, snags, dead tree stumps, porous rocks, and leaf litter.

- Be sure to leave some semi-bare, unmulched soil in the garden for nesting insects.
- Wooden blocks drilled with various diameter holes at least 6" deep can be made from preservative-free scrap lumber. Hang horizontally in eastern or southeastern sites out of the wind and rain and away from predators.
- Be sure to clean regularly to prevent parasites and disease. At the end of nesting season, in autumn, remove straws with bees in them and place in a ventilated container in the fridge or unheated shed or garage. Submerge nest block in 1:3 bleach solution; let dry. In the spring, place new straws in the nest. Replace wooden nest blocks every 2 years.

DIY Bee House

- Use an empty milk carton with the spout cut off and filled with paper tubes sealed at one end. To create the tubes, roll paper around a pencil or use hollow plant stems.
- Large insect hotels provide habitat for a variety of pollinators and can be made from found and recycled materials.

