

Discover the Birds, Bees & Butterfly Garden

The purpose of the Bird, Bee, and Butterfly Garden is to provide a food garden for pollinators. The garden includes host plants for butterfly caterpillars, nectar plants for butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds, seeds for birds, and a shallow dish for drinking water. Most of the plants in the garden are perennials, along with a few small shrubs.

Look for:

- Tubular flowers, such as Lobelia or Penstemon, (that look like a trumpet) are utilized by the long tongues of hummingbirds and butterflies.
- Bees prefer flat-petal flowers, such as Yarrow, so that they can feed from many flowers when they land in one place, and because these flowers provide easy access to the nectar.
- Checkout the diversity of the plants in this garden. They range from tall to short, with many different flower forms and colors. Diverse gardens attract diverse pollinators!

Garden Tips:

- It's important to provide food year-round by using plants in the garden that flower at different times. For example, in the fall, leave flowers to provide seed for birds. In the winter, leaf litter and tree bark or cavities are beneficial for butterfly pupae.
- Planting in clusters allows pollinators to move through the landscape safe from predators, and encourages thorough pollination of plants because pollinators are able to move easily from flower to flower.
- Use different heights of plants to create layers that support pollinator habitats. Tallest layer: trees and shrubs; middle layer: tall grasses, flowers, and climbing vines; lowest layer: short-stemmed flowers, vegetables, and ground cover.
- Natural/organic herbicides and pesticides are often safer for our pollinator friends.

