POLLINATORS Need Native Landscaping

WHAT'S THE CONCERN?

We rely on pollinators to move pollen within flowers or from flower to flower for successful seed and fruit production of plants. They include butterflies, moths, bees, and birds. There is a serious decline in pollinators due to loss of habitat and nectar-producing plants, pesticide use, and climate change. Many are federally "listed species," meaning their populations are near threatening levels.

Increased urban development and agricultural practices in Iowa contribute to Ioss of habitat, especially for Monarch butterflies. They need connected corridors of habitat to move between food sources especially during migration. These and other pollinators help increase plant diversity and support nectar-flowering native Iowa prairie and woodland plants.

We can help out pollinators by creating habitat such as establishing native pollinator plant gardens in our yards. This will also improve the soil health in a yard so that it will soak up more rainfall and generate less stormwater runoff.

> There are specific plant species that are desired by pollinators. Monarchs in particular need milkweed plants for their food source and for reproduction. Monarch butterflies are critical pollinators that increase plant diversity and support nectar-flowering native plants.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

You can help protect critical pollinators, like Monarch butterflies, by planting species that create habitat for pollinators. Nectar-flowering plants such as butterfly or swamp milkweed and prairie blazingstar provide excellent habitat for pollinators and produce vibrant colors in your garden. Native plant species also have the added benefit of creating deep root systems, which improve soil health by creating greater pore space.

Another simple method for helping pollinators thrive is to decrease the use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers. Ensure that you are only applying the amount of chemicals that are needed. Finally, encourage your friends and neighbors to consider planting native plants!

NATIVE PLANTS For Your Yard

Wild Geranium



Butterfly Milkweed

Scientific Name: Geranium maculatum Height: 1 foot Bloom Color: Purple Bloom Range: April-July Sun: Partial/Full Moisture: Mesic-Dry Mesic

Scientific Name: Asclepias tuberosa Height: 2 feet Bloom Color: Orange Bloom Range: June-August Sun: Partial/Full Moisture: Mesic-Dry Mesic



Columbine

Scientific Name: Aquilegia canadensis Height: 2 feet Bloom Color: Red Bloom Range: April-July Sun: Partial/Full/Shade Moisture: Mesic-Dry

Prairie Coreopsis



Scientific Name: Coreopsis palmata Height: 2 feet Bloom Color: Yellow Bloom Range: June-August Sun: Partial/Full Moisture: Mesic-Dry

Mid-Late Blooming

Wild Petunia

Cream Gentian

Mid-Late Blooming

Scientific Name: Ruellia humilis Height: 1 foot Bloom Color: Purple Bloom Range: June-August Sun: Partial/Full Moisture: Mesic-Dry

Scientific Name: Gentiana flavida

Bloom Range: August-September

Moisture: Wet Mesic-Dry Mesic

Sun: Partial/Full

Height: 3 feet Bloom Color: Cream

Purple Prairie Clover

Scientific Name: Dalea purpurea Height: 2 feet Bloom Color: Purple Bloom Range: July-September Moisture: Mesic-Dry



Little Bluestem

Scientific Name: Liatris aspera Height: 3 feet Bloom Color: Purple Bloom Range: July-October Sun: Partial/Full Moisture: Mesic-Dry

New Jersey Tea

Prairie Dropseed

Native Shrub

Native Grass

Late Blooming

Scientific Name: Ceanothus americanus Height: 3 feet Bloom Color: White Bloom Range: June-August Sun: Partial/Full Moisture: Mesic-Dry

Scientific Name: Sporobolis heterolepis

Scientific Name: Andropogon scoparium

Height: 3 feet Sun: Partial/Full Moisture: Mesic-Dry

Native Grass

Side Oats Grama



Scientific Name: Bouteloua curtipendula Height: 2 feet Sun: Partial/Full Moisture: Mesic-Dry



Indicates plant is a host for butterflies to lay eggs and provide food for caterpillars as they grow.

Moisture: Wet Mesic-Dry

Height: 3 feet

Sun: Partial/Full





Indicates plant is a significant source of nectar for adult pollinators.

Native Grass



Late Blooming

