

## Resources

### Native Plant Suppliers:

- Grow Wild! Native Plant Nursery, Omemee
- Native Plants in Claremont, Pickering
- Nith River Native Plants, New Hamburg
- Northern Wildflowers, Sudbury
- Not so Hollow Farms, Glencairn
- Sweet Grass Gardens, Hagersville
- Wildflower Farm, Coldwater



## Useful Websites

- North America Native Plant Society: [www.nanps.org](http://www.nanps.org)
- Canadian Wildlife Federation - Wild About Gardening: [www.wildaboutgardening.org](http://www.wildaboutgardening.org)
- Monarch Watch: [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)
- Pollinator Guelph [www.pollinatorguelph.ca](http://www.pollinatorguelph.ca)
- Pollination Canada:
  - <https://seeds.ca/pollination>
- Pollinator Partnership Canada: <http://pollinator.org/canada.htm>
- Xerxes Society: [www.xerxes.org](http://www.xerxes.org)

## Pollinator Gardens and Nesting Sites Across Ontario

- The Ontario Horticultural Association is collaborating with the Ontario Government and various partnering groups to create a pollinator garden at Queen's Park in the near future.
- Over 75 pollinator gardens and/or nesting sites have been created this year as part of the OHA Pollinator Initiative.



- *Text prepared by the OHA Conservation and Environment Committee*
- *Photographs provided by Rose Odell and Kelly Taylor*

## Project Partners



For more information, visit:  
[www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org)



[www.leevalley.com](http://www.leevalley.com)

# Be Part of the Buzz...

## Plant a Pollinator Friendly Garden Today



*Talk to an OHA Society  
for more information*



# 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.
- Create pollinator patches in civic gardens or waste areas using the OHA's *Roadsides Booklet* ([gardenontario.org](http://gardenontario.org))
- Choose a diverse variety of plants that bloom from early spring to late fall for successive bloom.



- 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 *Evergreen Native Plant Database* ([evergreen.ca](http://evergreen.ca)), *Pollinator Partnership Canada's Eco-regional Planting Guides* ([pollinator.org](http://pollinator.org)) or the OHA's *Natural Landscape Resource Booklet* available for purchase through OHA Supplies.
- 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.

