

Plant a Pollinator Garden!



Pollinators are declining due to habitat loss & pesticide use. You can help by planting a pollinator garden. Native plants are low-maintenance; they thrive without extra water, fertilizer, or chemicals. They beautify yards while supporting wildlife and protecting waterways.

Step One: Plan

- Pick a spot container, raised bed, or lawn
- Check conditions sun, soil, & drainage
- Design add taller plants to act as focus points
- Choose plants see our recommended list
- Plan for full size and include spring fall blooms
- Choose 3-5 species
- Add borders for a tidy look
- Help native bees 70% nest in soil so leave bare & plant closer together instead of using mulch



Step Two: Prep and Plant

- Remove turf by sod-cutting, solarization, smothering, or herbicide
- Pull invasive and noxious weeds.
 - (See Iowa Code Chapter 317)
- Use untreated plants avoid those grown with insecticides
- Label plants to tell garden species from weeds



Step Three: Care

- Water for 1–2 years until plants establish
- Avoid disturbing soil to keep weeds down
- Note which species thrive and which don't
- Leave seed heads for birds to eat
- Cut stems no lower than 15" from the ground; this is winter habitat for native bees
- Leave the leaves leaf litter is overwintering habitat for beneficial insects
- Share seeds with neighbors and the Prairie Rivers Native Seed Bank
- Be patient
 - 1st they sleep, 2nd they creep, 3rd they leap!

