



Wet Garden for Pollinators

These plants were selected for their suitability in a wet environment and for their pollinator value.

Summersweet
Clethra alnifolia

Fragrant white flower spikes draw in hummingbirds, butterflies and bees in mid to late summer, followed by golden foliage and seeds that feed birds.

S 4 plants

Button Bush*
Cephalanthus occidentalis

You'll find a midsummer party on the globe-shaped flowers, where butterflies and bumblebees gather among small native bees. Host plant for the royal walnut moth.

BB 1 plant

Hollow Joe-Pye
Eutrochium fistulosum

A dizzying array of butterflies and bees visit the flowers. Caterpillars of more than 40 species eat the leaves, and twig-nesting bees can lay eggs in cut stalks.

HJP 4 plants

Swamp Milkweed*
Asclepias incarnata

Watch monarchs, bumblebees, and other pollinators sip from pink flowers that pop in July. Monarch caterpillars eat the leaves. A good milkweed for small gardens.

SM 6 plants

Tussock Sedge*
Carex stricta

Dense, bright green tussocks host butterfly and moth caterpillars and provide shelter and overwintering areas for pollinators and other wildlife.

TS 6 plants

Marsh Marigold
Caltha palustris

Glossy foliage colonizes the ground all season following sunny spring blooms that feed halictid bees and flower flies, important pollinators.

MM 10 plants

Common Blue Violet*
Viola sororia

Spring-blooming groundcovers, violets host fritillary butterfly caterpillars. Violet miner bees specialize on the pollen of violets to feed their young.

CBV 16 plants

Blue Mistflower*
Conoclinium coelestinum

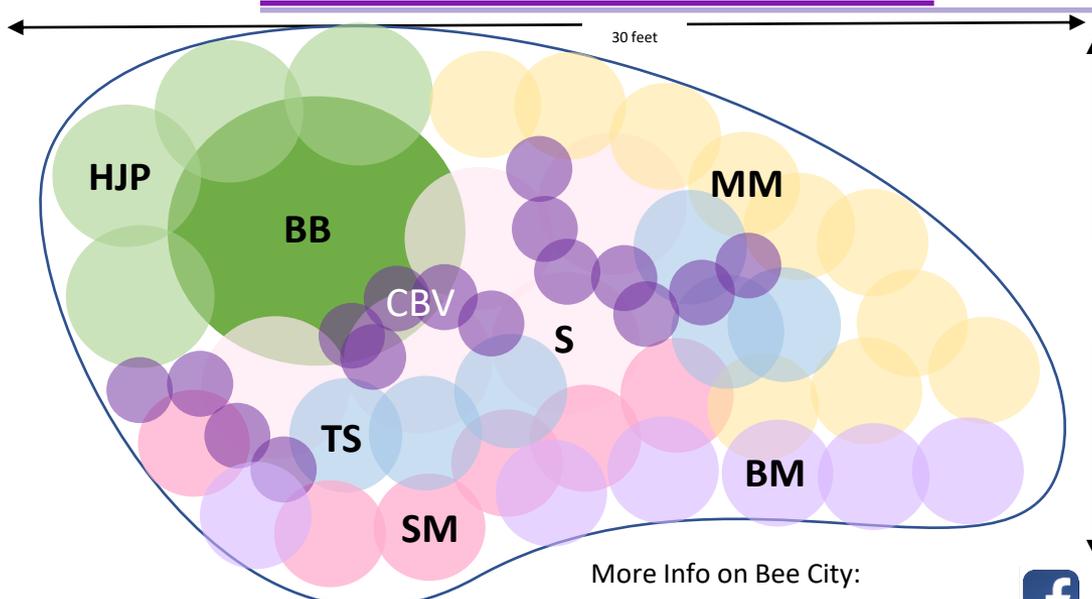
Soft purple blooms burst forth like clouds just as other flowers start to wane, providing much-needed fuel for migrating butterflies and late-season bees.

BM 5 plants



* Deer-resilient, resists or withstands some browsing.

Note: This design is flexible based on available space. To make this garden smaller, reduce the number of plants per species.



More Info on Bee City:

<https://livegreenhoward.com/land/pollinators/>



Featured Pollinator:
Variegated fritillary caterpillar
Euptoieta claudia

As caterpillars, some fritillary butterfly species have evolved to eat only violets. Though variegated fritillaries can have a more varied diet, in our area violets are their mainstay. Unlike the great spangled and meadow fritillaries, which overwinter as larvae, variegated fritillaries head south when temperatures dip.

Alternates for selected species

The following plant species can be alternately combined to create a pollinator garden in wet conditions. For more information about native plants and other pollinator resources, visit: livegreenhoward.com/land/pollinators/



Summersweet

Sweetspire*
Itea virginica
Goat's Beard*
Aruncus dioicus
Possumhaw
Viburnum nudum



Button Bush*

Pussy Willow
Salix discolor
Elderberry
Sambucus canadensis
Silky Dogwood*
Cornus amomum



Hollow Joe-Pye

Ironweed
Vernonia noveboracensis
Swamp Sunflower
Helianthus angustifolius
Switchgrass*
Panicum virgatum



Swamp Milkweed*

Cardinal Flower
Lobelia cardinalis
Wild Bergamot*
Monarda fistulosa
New England Aster
Symphotrichum novae-angliae



Tussock Sedge*

Soft Rush
Juncus effuses
Creek Sedge
Carex amphibola
Tufted Hairgrass*
Deschampsia cespitosa



Marsh Marigold

Golden Ragwort*
Packera aurea
Canada Anemone*
Anemone canadensis
Wrinkleleaf
Goldenrod
Solidago rugosa



Common Blue Violet*

Blue Flag Iris
Iris versicolor
Virginia Bluebells*
Mertensia virginica
Great Blue Lobelia
Lobelia siphilitica



Blue Mistflower*

Monkeyflower
Mimulus ringens
Woodland Phlox
Phlox divaricata
Golden Alexander*
Zizia aurea

Why Plant Natives?

ENJOY A BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE

The many textures, colors and habits of native plants can be combined in attractive designs. Choose a natural-looking or more formal style.

PRESERVE MARYLAND'S BIODIVERSITY

Many bees provision their nests with pollen from native plants, and butterflies and moths eat native species at the larval stage. Birds, in turn, feed an abundance of these caterpillars to their young. Going native supports this whole food web.

IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Conventional gardens often employ fertilizers, pesticides, supplemental water, and fossil-fuel-using machinery – resulting in poor soil health, erosion, and polluted stormwater runoff.

How You Can Help Pollinators

PROVIDE FOOD

Plant a succession of native blooms of different shapes, sizes and colors from spring to fall. Choose native species over cultivars when possible. Plant densely, using native groundcovers as “green mulch,” leaving some bare soil for the 70 percent of native bees that nest in the ground. Plant in drifts of 3 or more plants to be noticed by pollinators.

PROVIDE WATER SOURCES

Include mud-puddling areas for butterflies. (Refresh water often to deter mosquitoes.)

PROVIDE SHELTER

Add nesting and overwintering sites for cavity-nesting bees, caterpillars and others by leaving fallen leaves where possible and incorporating dead wood (stalks, logs, stumps).

SAFEGUARD POLLINATOR HABITAT

Control invasive plants, and avoid pesticides when possible.