

# Attracting Pollinators and Beneficial Insects



Jamie Dockery  
Fayette County  
horticulture agent

# What can home gardeners do....?

- Alter management practices to favor insects
- Create diverse habitats within landscape and garden plantings
- Add plants that provide food sources throughout the season



# In the vegetable garden...

- Plant flowering plants as borders and as rows in vegetables
- Use pesticides as little as possible, avoid broad spectrum options or limit their use to restricted spots of infestation
- Do not spray plants in flower
- Avoid systemic insecticides
- Use straw mulch in garden. Conserves moisture and provides cover for ground beetles
- Sow cover crops for increased winter cover

# In the lawn...

- Dandelions in lawns and other areas provide nectar and pollen early when little else is available.
- Consider Dutch clover for natural fertilization and bee friendly flowers
- Avoid grub treatments containing systemic insecticides
- Mow as high as possible during the summer





# In the landscape...

- Provide a water source- but have a plan for mosquitos
- Leave perennial plants for winter cover- Particularly useful for predaceous ground beetles.
- Select plants that benefit desirable insects
- Try to have lots of things blooming in all seasons
- Many herbs attract pollinators when in flower- consider incorporating into landscape or veggie garden



# In general...

- Avoid systemic insecticides on plants with attractive pollen or nectar
- If chemicals must be used spray very early or very late when pollinators are less active
- Diversity of species and lots of flowering plants attract the most insects
- Plants in the aster, carrot and buckwheat families are among the best
- Stacks of firewood, twigs and brush can provide wintering sites for solitary bees and other insects.



# Common annuals for pollinators and beneficials...

- Ageratum
- Alyssum
- Bachelor button
- Zinnias
- Salvia
- Sunflower
- Cosmos
- Marigolds-signet and single flowers best





# Common perennials for pollinators...

- Coneflower
- Beebalm
- Yarrow
- Goldenrod- less invasive types
- Sedum
- Rudbeckia
- False sunflower
- Liatris-blazing star
- Coreopsis
- Milkweed-preferably not wildly  
invasive common milkweed





# Common herbs for pollinators...

- Mints
- chives
- Oregano
- Dill
- Hyssop (ornamental varieties as well)
- Thyme
- Lavender
- Chamomile
- Sage



# Common woody plants for pollinators....

- Maple
- Crabapple
- Serviceberry
- Linden
- Ninebark
- Pussy willow
- Sumac
- Button bush



# Resources...

Youtube channel- Fayette County Extension Horticulture- plant profiles

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs72XdCBoKYkHN9VMFx4aMw>

Monarchwatch- info related to monarchs- most all of this applies to other pollinators and beneficial insects

<https://www.monarchwatch.org/>

Plants to attract pollinators-

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/other/landscaping/hgic1727.html>

Attracting Beneficial Insects with Native Plants-

<http://nativeplants.msu.edu/uploads/files/E2973.pdf>

Encouraging Beneficial Insects in Your Garden-

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/pnw550.pdf>

Plants to attract beneficial Insects-

<http://permaculturenews.org/2014/10/04/plants-attract-beneficial-insects/>

Attracting Pollinators to the garden-

<https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/ENT-47>

# Resources...

NRCS- Insects and Pollinators

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/>

Gardening for Pollinators

<https://extension.purdue.edu/article/10636>

Pollinator Friendly Gardens

<https://extension.psu.edu/planting-pollinator-friendly-gardens>

How to Build a Pollinator Garden

<https://www.fws.gov/midwest/news/PollinatorGarden.html>

Roundstone Seed

<https://roundstoneseed.com/>

Gardening for Pollinators- USDA Forestry

<https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/gardening.shtml>

LFUCG- Plant by Numbers- garden plans

<https://www.lexingtonky.gov/PlantByNumbers>



Questions...?