



## Pollinator-Friendly Gardening



Experts generally agree that pollinator-friendly gardening involves providing habitat (food, water, shelter) and reducing the use of pesticides. A wide variety of plants that flower throughout the seasons, including natives, are recommended. There are many free online resources that provide guidance, including recommended plant lists and how-to advice. A selection is listed below, including those from Washington State University (WSU) and Oregon State University (OSU) Extension.

OSU references, available at [catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu](http://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu):

- Providing Habitat for **Native Pollinators** [EC1649](#)
- Enhancing Urban and Suburban Landscapes to **Protect Pollinators** [EM9289](#)
- Encouraging Beneficial Insects in the Garden [PNW550](#)
- A Guide to **Hedgerows**: Plantings That Enhance Biodiversity, Sustainability and Functionality [EM8721](#)
- **Shrubs and Trees** for Bees [EM9391](#)
- **Native Plant** Picks for Bees [EM9363](#)

WSU references, available at [pubs.extension.wsu.edu](http://pubs.extension.wsu.edu):

- **Pollination & Protecting Bees** and Other Pollinators FS174E
- **Beneficial Insects**, Spiders, and Other Mini-Creatures in Your Garden EM067E
- Washington **Bumble Bees** in Home Yards & Gardens FS263E
- **Megachilid** (leafcutter & mason) Bees in the Pacific Northwest PNW692
- **Lady Beetles**: Should We Buy Them for our Gardens? FS268E
- Pesticide Ingredient: **Neonicotinoids** FS210E
- Are **native trees and shrubs** better choices for wildlife in home landscapes? FS300E
- Gardening with **Companion Plants** EM128E Other

resources:

- King County, pollinator information: [kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/environment-ecology-conservation/wildlife/biodiversity/invertebrates](http://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/environment-ecology-conservation/wildlife/biodiversity/invertebrates) Website includes links to habitat guidelines and recommended plant lists.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: [www.fws.gov/pollinators](http://www.fws.gov/pollinators) Resources, including planting a pollinator garden and creating nesting sites.

- U.S. Forest Service: [www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/wildflowers/pollinators/gardening](http://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/wildflowers/pollinators/gardening) Includes gardening for pollinators and pollinator-friendly best practices.
- Xerces Society, [xerces.org](http://xerces.org) Website includes pollinator plant lists by region.
- Pollinator Partnership, [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org) Website includes planting guides by region.
- National Wildlife Federation: [www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/About/National-Initiatives/Pollinators](http://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/About/National-Initiatives/Pollinators) Website includes guidance on creation of pollinator habitat. NWF also provides a listing of keystone native plants for our region at this link: [www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Garden-for-Wildlife/Keystone-Plants/NWF-GFW-keystone-plant-list-ecoregion-7-marine-west-coast-forest.pdf](http://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Garden-for-Wildlife/Keystone-Plants/NWF-GFW-keystone-plant-list-ecoregion-7-marine-west-coast-forest.pdf) These plants play a key role in pollinator survival.
- Great Plant Picks, [www.greatplantpicks.org](http://www.greatplantpicks.org) Plant recommendations for our PNW, including those for birds, bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.
- Washington Native Plant Society, [wnps.org](http://wnps.org) Plant lists, including natives. Backyard wildlife and habitat resources.
- Pollinator Pathways NW <https://pollinatorpathwaynw.org/>, a project of the non-profit *21 Acres* in Woodinville <https://21acres.org/>. Website and newsletter provide pollinator guidance and resources.
- Bellevue Botanical Garden, [bellevuebotanical.org](http://bellevuebotanical.org) In partnership with Bellevue Botanical Garden (BBG), WSU King County Master Gardeners developed the *Habitats at Home* Demonstration Garden, which will be on display in the BBG Courtyard Bed until spring 2028. It showcases plants and practices that support pollinators, highlighting four-season bloom and plant diversity. More information is available here: [bellevuebotanical.org/habitats-at-home](http://bellevuebotanical.org/habitats-at-home)

Using many of the resources listed above, a group of **WSU King County Master Gardeners** compiled a **list of pollinator plants** that do well as landscape plants in our PNW region and should be relatively easy to procure at local nurseries. The list is not exhaustive, just two pages, but is formatted for easy reference in building a year-round pollinator garden. Required sun and soil conditions, as well as size and bloom color are included. It is available to view and download on our Tip Sheet web page here: [extension.wsu.edu/king/mg-home/gardening-resources/tip-sheets](http://extension.wsu.edu/king/mg-home/gardening-resources/tip-sheets) You'll find it posted near our Tip Sheet #12, *Pollinator Friendly Gardening*.

*Additional Master Gardener Tip Sheets, including "Gardening Websites" and "Gardening Publications" are available at [kingcountymg.org](http://kingcountymg.org) Also see WSU's "Gardening in Washington State" at [mastergardener.wsu.edu/resources/gardening-in-washington-state](http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/resources/gardening-in-washington-state) and free downloads of WSU gardening publications at [pubs.extension.wsu.edu](http://pubs.extension.wsu.edu)*

*The Master Gardener Program in King County is made possible by the fundraising of our non-profit Foundation. To learn more and contribute, please visit [MGFKC.org](http://MGFKC.org)*

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