



Massachusetts Pollinator Network

Super Easy Things to (Not) Do to Support Pollinators

1. Do not use pesticides of any kind and make sure any plants you obtain are free of chemicals, especially neonicotinoids, including seeds.
2. Leave the leaves wherever possible. If you must remove leaves or dead plants, pile them up without chopping them.
3. Do not leave outside lights on. This kills night-flying pollinators, such as moths. If you have outside lights for safety, replace bulbs with yellow lights and/or make lights motion-activated.
4. If you have a lawn, mow at a height of at least 3" every 2-3 weeks. Do not use herbicides and encourage flowering plants in your lawn, especially clover, violets, bluets, wild strawberry, and self-heal (Prunella).

General Guidelines for Gardening for Pollinators:

1. Plant native plants as much as possible (straight species, not cultivars). Aim for at least 70% native plants in your landscape, with much of the remainder also providing nectar and pollen.
2. Reduce or eliminate lawn, especially under trees (caterpillars dropping from canopy need leaves or ground covers to overwinter)..
3. Include a wide diversity of native herbaceous plants, shrubs, and trees. Have a variety of plants in bloom from early spring to late fall.
4. Provide a diversity of native flower types and colors in every season.
5. Support pollinators through their entire life cycle, providing nectar and pollen at every stage, host plants for caterpillars, water (a filled saucer with a rock is fine), and places to nest and overwinter (including bare spots for ground nesting bees).
6. Remove (as much as possible) invasive plants from your landscape.
7. Cut hollow plant stalks to 6' - 18" at the end of the growing season for cavity dwelling native bees to use as brood chambers the following year. Leave plant stalks with seed heads for birds to feed on at least until warm days in the spring.
8. No garden space? Plant pots with fennel, parsley, and/or dill. Watch the caterpillars have a feast! Or plant a large pot with a small blueberry bush; feed the birds, too!

Learn more about planting for pollinators [here](https://masspollinatornetwork.org/)(from "RESOURCES" at <https://masspollinatornetwork.org/>)

Local Sources for Pesticide-Free Native Plants:

Wing and a Prayer Nursery, Cummington - <https://aliceskitchenathoneyhill.com/amys-nursery/> - (open Sundays and Mondays and by appointment) - great selection and prices as well as expert advice!

Nasami Farm, Whately MA - <http://www.nativeplanttrust.org/for-your-garden/nasami-farm/>

That's a Plenty Farm, Hadley, MA - <https://www.thatsaplentyfarm.com/>

Turtle Bend Farm, Southampton, MA - <https://www.turtlebend.farm/>

Checkerspot Farm, Colrain, MA - <https://www.checkerspotfarm.com/>

Gardener's Supply, Hadley MA - <https://www.gardeners.com/our-garden-centers/hadley-ma> - ask for straight species (not cultivars) of native plants

New England Wetland Plants, South Hadley, MA – <https://newp.com/> - a wholesale nursery, but they sell to the public, you generally need a \$250 minimum order. Excellent for habitat restoration or large projects. You need to email your order with a pick up time, and they will assemble it and then you go pick it up. No browsing.

Plant List for Northampton Pollinator Pathway

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fI9C9kG8J_FHASGYS9RIZsTqZvoRqFsdhDqaywOqo/edit?usp=sharing

A Great Video from Doug Tallamy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHURaRv78QY>

More information on Fall Gardening to Support Wildlife:

<https://www.gardenista.com/posts/log-pile-habitats-sculpture/>

<https://www.humanegardener.com/animals-made-possible-fallen-leaves/>

Recommended Books to Get You Started (they include plant lists):

Nature's Best Hope by Doug Tallamy

[Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard - Kindle edition](#)

Noah's Garden by Sara Stein

[Noah's Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Back Yards: Sara Stein: 9780395709405: Amazon.com](#)

Garden Revolution by Larry Weaner

[Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change Hardcover – Illustrated, May 18, 2016](#)

Planting in a Post-Wild World by Thomas Rainier and Claudia West

[Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes Hardcover – October 7, 2015](#)

Mail Order Sources for Plants and Seeds

Maine Wild Seed Project - <https://wildseedproject.net/>

Prairie Moon Nursery - <https://www.prairiemoon.com/>

Prairie Nursery - <https://www.prairienursery.com/>

Organizations with Lots of Information

The Xerces Society - <https://www.xerces.org/>

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildlife Center- <https://www.wildflower.org/>

Healthy Yards - <https://www.healthyyards.org/>

Homegrown National Park - <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>

National Wildlife Federation

<https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants/keystone-plants-by-ecoregion>

Grow Native Massachusetts

<https://grownativemass.org/>

Other Sources for Recommended Plant Lists

Dr Rob Gegear from UMass Dartmouth, who does research on threatened bee species:

<https://gegearlab.weebly.com/plant-list.html>

Books by Heather Holm

<https://www.amazon.com/Pollinators-Native-Plants-Identify-Beneficial/dp/0991356306>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZXjTJb0m3SRI6PFarKHabLO4BagrIT5X/edit>