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Bee Friendly Gardening™

A Program of Pollinator Partnership

April 2024



A Buzzworthy Symbiotic Relationship: The Link Between Composting and Pollinators

Reduce, Rot, Recycle – Celebrating International Composting Awareness Week in Your Bee-Friendly Garden

Lauren Click, [Let's Go Compost](#) Founder and Executive Director

When it comes to healthy relationships in the world of sustainability and biodiversity, preservation, pollinators, and composting are tried and true sweethearts. Celebrate [International Composting Awareness Week](#) (May 5–11, 2024) by learning how composting in your Bee Friendly Garden can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect natural pollinator habitats, and foster healthy soil.

Composting and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Composting, as a sustainable waste management practice, is pivotal in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Traditional disposal methods (like sending trash to landfill) contribute significantly to the release of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. In contrast, composting organic waste facilitates the breakdown of materials in an oxygen-rich environment, mitigating the production of methane. By diverting organic waste from landfills, composting serves as an effective strategy to combat climate change and minimize the carbon footprint associated with waste disposal. Not sure how to compost in your backyard, patio, or apartment garden? [Click here](#) to learn how!



[READ ARTICLE](#)

Portable Plants for Pollinators

Contributing to the Protection and Proliferation of Pollinators on My Patio

Stephanie M. Lewis, BSN, RN, Georgia Master Naturalist, Certified in Native Plants, Plant and Pollinator Specialist

Before describing my own “how to” pattern of providing for pollinators, I need to tell you that until recent years, I never used the word “pollinator”. For the sake of full disclosure, I confess that I have squished my fair share of caterpillars who were eating my plants. My thoughts: “EW! Get out of here you nasty things! These plants are MINE.” I **still** feel remorse. Really connecting the dots between the services that pollinators provide and the fruits and vegetables that I eat is the lesson that changed my world and view of growing plants.



Can you remember the first time you appreciated a plant? Was it the color, the shape, the texture, the fragrance, the use? It is my guess that this first experience is what contributed most strongly to your current pursuit in the garden.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

Special Member Opportunity!

Let's Go Compost Webinar

Provided by our partners at [Let's Go Compost](#), exclusively for Members of Bee Friendly Gardening!

Composting for your Bee Friendly Garden

Want to learn the ins and outs of composting? Whether you have a few acres or live in an apartment, this webinar is for you! Discover tips and tricks and find out about tools and resources you didn't even know existed.



REGISTER:
May 6 12:00 CDT
Zoom
bit.ly/3xEtJYW

[REGISTER HERE](#)

April is Native Plant Month

The national effort to establish April as Native Plant Month has been successful. On March 20, 2024, the United States Senate passed [Resolution 603](#) designating April 2024 as [National Native Plant Month](#). The same resolution has been introduced in the US House of Representatives.



The Native Plant Month Initiative (NPMI) is a nationwide, multidisciplinary, cross-committee collaboration, spearheaded by the Garden Club of America (GCA), to promote native plants by formally establishing a Native Plant Month in all fifty states and D.C. by April 2024. The goal of the NPMI is to increase awareness of the critical role native plants play in supporting a healthy environment, helping wildlife and pollinator populations thrive, and much more. What can you do? As you plan your spring landscaping and gardens, include native plants in all your beds, not just your Bee Friendly Garden! With your support, the GCA hopes this initiative will encourage people across America to plant more native plants in their yards, public spaces, and business properties.

Joined BFG and Wondering, What Next?

STEP 1:
JOIN BFG

Visit beefriendlygardening.org and [JOIN](#)
(pay a \$20 recurring annual membership fee)

That's it! You are a BFG Member and get all sorts of [cool perks!](#)

STEP 2:
REGISTER YOUR BFG



If you create a Bee Friendly Garden, [register it](#) with us!

Criteria:

- 1) Provide blooming plants spring through fall
- 2) Provide pollinator nesting habitat
- 3) Reduce or eliminate the use of chemicals

[WHAT NEXT?](#)

Be on the lookout for a new Member benefit coming soon – Earn a Badge!

Notable Dates:

- April - National Garden Month
- April – [National Native Plant Month](#)
- May 4 – National Start Seeing Monarchs Day
- May 10 – Public Gardens Day
- May 12 – Mother's Day
- May 16 – National Love a Tree Day
- May 17 – Endangered Species Day
- May 19 – World Plant a Vegetable Garden Day
- May 20 – World Bee Day
- It's never too early to start thinking about [Pollinator Week](#) - June 17-23

Brought to you by BFG - be a part of the Bee Friendly movement!



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