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Bee Friendly Gardening™

August 2023

Native Plants Support Fruits and Vegetables in Your Garden: Build a Year-Round Ecosystem to Improve Your Harvest

Robert Suseland, Indiana Partner Biologist

Establishing and maintaining patches or strips of native grasses and wildflowers near your garden will attract, support, and sustain a beneficial ecosystem. This ecosystem will improve plant health. Many species of bees needed for vegetable and fruit pollination nest and/or overwinter in the ground or in the stems of native plants. Plantings that provide bees with floral resources and year-round cover will result in healthier, on-site populations of bees available for pollination. Native plants also provide resources to beneficial insects, including predatory wasps, parasitoid wasps, ground beetles, lady beetles, soldier beetles, lacewings, etc. all of which help naturally control pest insects that are detrimental to your vegetable and fruit plants.



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North Clackamas Celebrates Opening of BFG Pollinator Gardens in their Parks and Recreation District

Cody Wilson, Bee Friendly Gardening Associate, Pollinator Partnership

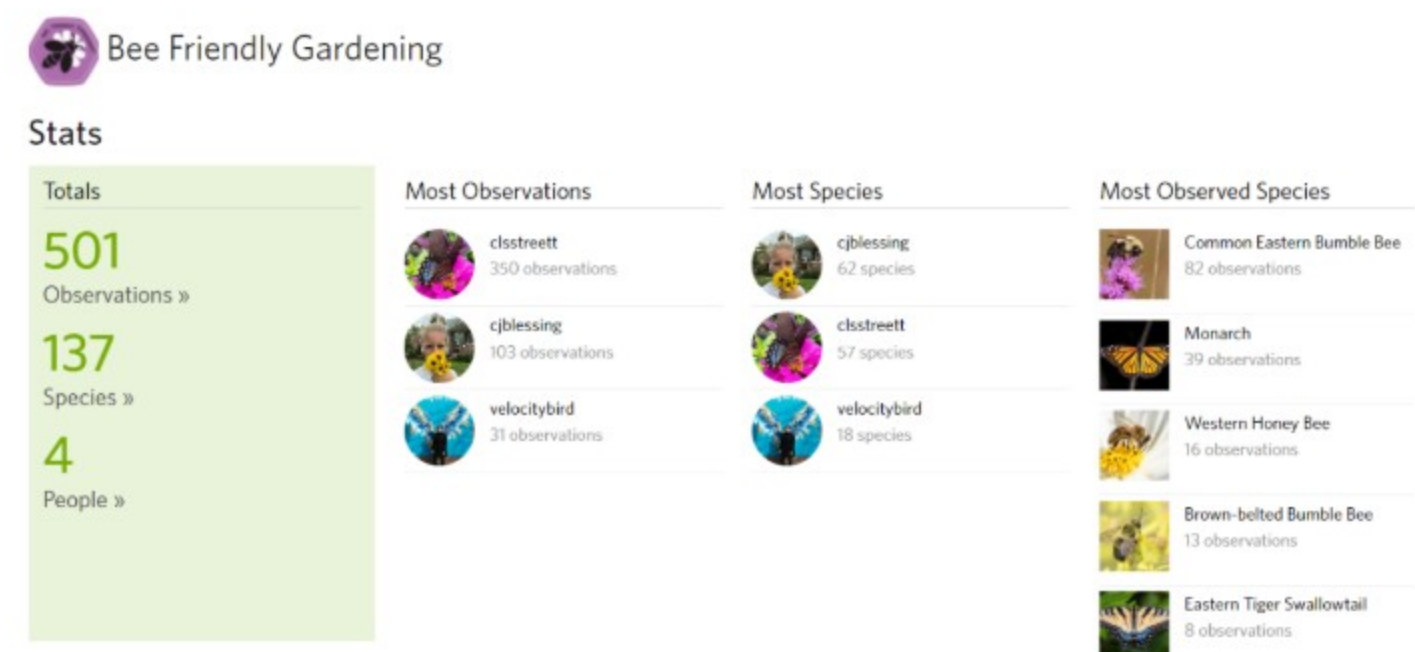
Parks, gardens, and greenspaces have become increasingly important to supporting the vitality of diverse pollinator species. North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD) is supporting local pollinators by planting native flowering plant species in parks and natural areas. Native plants are best adapted to the climate and soil conditions of a specific region, often making them more drought tolerant and low-maintenance. These plants have evolved to develop a mutually beneficial relationship with local wildlife and pollinators, and are the heart of a pollinator-friendly garden. NCPRD, in partnered efforts with Pollinator Partnership, have established 3 unique pollinator parks within Clackamas County, Oregon at Alma Myra Park, Hawthorne Park, and Stringfield Family Park.



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Join Us Over at iNaturalist

The iNaturalist app is a tool we use to measure the collective impacts of our Bee Friendly Gardens. You observe and document your observations in your BFG garden - it is fun and informative, and easy to participate in. Join us! Here are some results from our members:



A huge thank you to Cathy Streett and CJ Blessing for logging the most observations and the most species thus far in the BFG Project! According to Cathy, "It is amazing what native bees you will find when you provide bee friendly plants, nesting and overwintering opportunities. Bees are not the only native insects that use the habitat; great predators such as ladybugs and fireflies, and other interesting and helpful insects also find habitat when you garden with nature in mind."

CJ reiterates the ease of participating, the benefit she gets from identification, and her larger contribution to science: "I have no background in photography but taking pictures of the bees, butterflies and everything in between is a big passion of mine. Joining BFG led me to iNaturalist. It's an incredible way to identify the biodiverse objects in and out of my garden. I've stumbled across plants or bugs that I can't identify and iNaturalist will identify them. Your contributions could be beneficial for local or state projects that are collecting data." Want to join us? [Here's how!](#)

[JOIN INATURALIST](#)

Tell Us More

We want your stories for two future columns in the newsletter:

My Favorite Pollinator Plant -
Please tell us all about your favorite plant, why you love it, and what pollinators love it. Make sure to include a photo of the plant.

What's That Host Plant? - Please profile a host plant (and send a photo of it) that you have in your yard, as well as the pollinator that it plays host to.



Email your stories to bfg@pollinator.org.

Bee Friendly Garden Spotlight



Thank you to Peggy Clark of Santa Rosa, CA, for sharing photos of her Bee Friendly Garden! Send us photos of your garden. **Email them to** bfg@pollinator.org.

Notable Dates:

- **August 17** - National Nonprofit Day
- **August 19** - World Honey Bee Day
- **September** - National Honey Month
- **September 4** - Labor Day
- **September 4** - National Wildlife Day
- **September 23** - National Public Lands Day
- **September 23** - First Day of Fall

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



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