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Bee Friendly Gardening™ Newsletter

Dear Sara

December is nearly gone, bringing a gentle pause to our gardens as the year winds to a close. Even in this quiet season, there's a special kind of magic in knowing that life is resting, restoring, and waiting for the light to return. As we reflect on a year of growing, learning, and supporting the pollinators who we depend on, we're especially grateful for this community of dedicated gardeners. To celebrate you, we've tucked a few goodies into this month's **newsletter** (some new, and some we wanted to remind you about as part of your member benefits)—our way of saying thank you for all that you do.

Happy gardening.



Sara Wittenberg
Bee Friendly Gardening Manager
Pollinator Partnership

Where do bumble bees go in winter?

Anthony Colangelo, Education Manager, Pollinator Partnership

Did you know that queen bumble bees are able to hibernate during the winter? Bumble bees, which make up the genus *Bombus*, are some of the most fascinating pollinators, and are often considered the "teddy bears" of the bee world because of their fuzzy bodies and sometimes clumsy demeanor. Bumble bees live in colonies that can include up to 500 bees, and each colony is centered around the queen, who is the founder of each nest, which is usually located under leaves or compost piles. Amazingly, future queens leave their initial colony and hibernate over winter to reemerge in the spring when temperatures are warmer and flowers are in bloom.

This is part two of a three part series. Check back in January to see where mason bees go in the winter!



[Read the full article](#)

BFG Badges

Take extra actions to help pollinators in 2026



The BFG Badges are our gifts to you to recognize actions that you take for pollinators that go above and beyond. As a member we encourage you to use the "Join Me" badge liberally—in your email signature, social media profiles, wherever you have a chance to spread the word about the good work we are doing here in Bee Friendly Gardening.

[Join Me Badge](#)

Beyond that, you can take up to five additional actions for pollinators, then **apply** to earn the associated badge. More information on how to earn each badge can be found on the member webpage ([email](#) if you do not remember the login credentials).

[Apply for Badges](#)

New this month—a toolkit to help you earn your Ambassador badge! The Bee Friendly Gardening Ambassador Badge is our highest level of distinction, reserved for members who go above and beyond to share the Bee Friendly Gardening message and inspire others to take action for pollinators.

What we're looking for: Ambassadors take significant, visible outreach or education actions that reach a wide audience or have a lasting community impact. This badge is not for individual gardening activities—it's for those who help grow the movement by spreading awareness of pollinator conservation and Pollinator Partnership's Bee Friendly Gardening program.

It is our desire that our new toolkit arms you with the resources you need to go out into your community and increase awareness about pollinators and BFG. We are excited to let you know that in this toolkit we have created a new BFG slide deck and printable media pack to help you with your future pollinator outreach activities!

[BFG Ambassador Toolkit](#)

Please note—actions must include a clear promotional or educational component for the Bee Friendly Gardening program. If you're completing your Pollinator Steward Certification, please use a different activity to qualify for this badge.

We look forward to celebrating your leadership in helping pollinators thrive and your role in growing the Bee Friendly Gardening movement!

Out with the Old/In with the New GET YOUR GARDEN SIGN!

Our new-and-improved habitat sign for registered Bee Friendly Gardens is officially here! When you **REGISTER** your garden with Bee Friendly Gardening (BFG), you'll gain access to the updated sign and a growing library of member resources. With more than 1,000 members across North America, BFG is a thriving community of environmental stewards gardening with pollinators in mind.

To celebrate, we're offering the new signs at a reduced price, now just \$29.95 (originally \$45). And to help us clear out remaining stock, you can register your garden and grab a legacy BFG sign for only the cost of shipping (\$10) for a limited time! If you already have a registered garden, email bfg@pollinator.org to get a link to purchase.



[Register Your Garden](#)

Already have a registered garden? Have you joined us on iNaturalist? This is a wonderful way to document the impact our Bee Friendly Gardens are having! We hope to see you over there in our BFG iNat project in 2026. Happy observing! *Note - this is only for members who have a registered Bee Friendly Garden.*

[Join BFG on iNaturalist](#)

BFG/PSC Bonus Webinar

[Register](#)

One of your member benefits is a free quarterly webinar by a carefully selected expert to bring you curated content to assist your efforts in gardening for pollinators. But every now and then, we offer an extra, bonus webinar, like this one we are co-hosting with Pollinator Partnership's [Pollinator Steward Certification](#) program, titled *Winter in Your Native Plant Landscape*.

This presentation will highlight the value of winter structure, seedheads, and dormant vegetation for pollinators and wildlife, while also outlining key management, planting, and planning activities best suited for the cold months. From invasive species control and prescribed winter pruning to dormant-season seeding and preparing planting plans for spring, Annie will provide practical, seasonally informed guidance to help landowners, gardeners, and conservation professionals make the most of winter in their native landscapes.

Missed a past webinar? We've got you covered! You can find recordings of [archived webinars here](#) on the member website.

Podcast Alert!

551 Gardens Strong: Inside Pollinator Partnership's Bee Friendly Gardening

It's no secret that what makes Bee Friendly Gardening great is its dedicated member base. Meet Kelly, a Certified Pollinator Steward and Bee Friendly Gardening member, who recently released an informative podcast episode all about BFG. Tune in as Kelly reports on the ins-and-outs of BFG, her favorite membership benefits, and the joy that comes from creating habitat for pollinators.

Listen to her [latest episode](#) of "Secret Pollinators" and share it with your fellow garden lovers. And be sure to check out the rest of the episodes on native bees and other pollinators and what makes them special.



[Secret Pollinators Podcast](#)

BFG on Facebook



Are you interacting with your fellow members on the Bee Friendly Gardening Facebook page? If not, what are you waiting for? A new registered garden is featured through our Bee Friendly Friday posts every week. Who knows, perhaps yours has been highlighted! As you look to add new native plants or nesting habitat to your own garden, you may find ideas here from what others have done. In late fall, we participated in a member-led BFG Bioblitz, and have plans to host more in the future. Don't miss out! Join us on the BFG Facebook page, and be eligible to win a BFG t-shirt from our [Bonfire store](#).

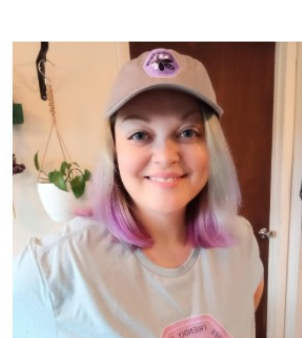
[Join Us on Facebook](#)

Want to skip right to your very own BFG shirt? A garden flag or notebook? BFG hat? One of our famous pollinator posters? We have several ways to celebrate BFG in our [merch store](#) - check it out!

12 DAYS OF BEE-FRIENDLY HOLIDAY TIPS

- Day 1: Leave the leaves (winter habitat!)
- Day 2: Switch to dark-sky friendly holiday lights (better for moths)
- Day 3: Choose local evergreens when decorating
- Day 4: Plant seeds for early spring bloom
- Day 5: Gift native plants (or a BFG membership!)
- Day 6: Use natural materials for wreaths
- Day 7: Avoid glitter (microplastics = bad for soil & water)
- Day 8: Provide winter water sources for birds and pollinators
- Day 9: Reuse gift wrapping
- Day 10: Share your BFG garden photos
- Day 11: Leave spent flower stems for nesting bees
- Day 12: Set a New Year's resolution for habitat in 2026

Win a BFG Hat



Are you enjoying BFG? Tell a friend!

While we normally don't encourage sharing the members-only resources like the **newsletter**, this month we ask that you forward to a friend (copy us in at bfg@pollinator.org) for the chance to win a BFG hat.

Not enjoying the benefits that come along with your membership? We want to hear! Tell us at bfg@pollinator.org.



Get Seeds

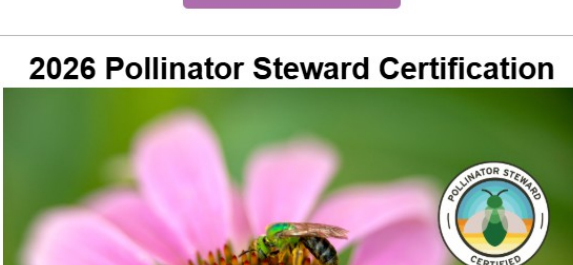
Winter is the time to plant native seeds to get a start on your 2026 Bee Friendly Garden! Not sure where to get them? We've got you covered, whether you live in the US (head right over to our partners at Stover Seed to order regionally appropriate native seeds for wherever you live) or Canada (filter by location to find suppliers near you).



[Get Seeds - US](#)

[Get Seeds - Canada](#)

2026 Pollinator Steward Certification



Register today to secure the early-bird discount (ends **December 31**) for our 2026

[Message clipped] [View entire message](#)