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Bee Friendly Gardening

A Program of Pollinator Partnership

July 2025

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP

Protect Their Lives. Revitalize Ours.

Announcing the Bee Friendly Gardening Photo Contest!

Show off your pollinator paradise! BFG Members can enter in one of two ways – by posting your favorite photo of your garden to the [BFG Facebook group](#) (and tagging @Sara Ress Wittenberg) or by emailing your photo to bfg@pollinator.org. Our wider Pollinator Partnership audience will take a vote and the garden with the most votes will win a BFG hat and sign for their garden! Winning members who already have a sign will have an opportunity to choose a product from the Pollinator Partnership merch store instead. Already sent us garden photos from our first solicitation way back when? No problem! Your submissions are automatically entered in this year's contest.

Rules:

- One photo per entry
- One entry per member
- Include the name of your garden in your entry
- Deadline – September 1st



Easy Steps to Manage Ants Around the Home and Garden

By Suzanne Bontempo of [Plant Harmony](#)

While generally harmless, ants can raise concerns when they move indoors or show up in overwhelming numbers in the garden. While the sight of ants can make some people uneasy, it's important to remember that most ants are not a serious problem—and many are actually beneficial. Ants help aerate the soil, assist in breaking down organic matter, and serve as food for birds, lizards, and other helpful garden creatures. In a healthy garden ecosystem, they often play a positive role. That said, ants can occasionally become a nuisance, especially when associated with pests like aphids or in cases involving aggressive species like fire ants. If you're concerned about ants, there are effective, pollinator-safe strategies you can use—without turning to insecticides. When I'm tackling ants, here are a few simple steps I use to keep ants out of the home and to reduce their activity in the garden.



[READ ARTICLE](#)

Want to learn more about natural pest control in the garden? Make sure to tune into our upcoming webinar!

Member Webinar

Join us for this exclusive co-hosted bonus webinar, just for Certified Pollinator Stewards and Bee Friendly Gardeners. Learn about pest management for your garden using gentle, pollinator-friendly approaches!

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BEE FRIENDLY GARDENING

Member since 2023

PEST MANAGEMENT IN THE GARDEN

Join Marissa Ritz as she presents a new look at functional gardening and pest management, particularly for organic vegetable gardens. She will offer tips and tricks to create habitat, encourage pollinators & beneficial insects, and reduce pest pressure in your garden.

Friday August 8

10PST/12CST/1EST

MEMBER WEBINAR



[Bee Friendly Gardening](#) and [Pollinator Steward Certification](#), both programs of Pollinator Partnership, work beautifully together! We encourage you to check out what both programs have to offer, and hope that you will consider joining both. If you have questions, please reach out to ac@pollinator.org (PSC) or sw@pollinator.org (BFG). We hope to see you on [Zoom](#) on Friday, August 8. If you cannot make it, those who register will be provided with the recording.

[REGISTER FOR WEBINAR](#)

Earn a badge... or five!

Don't forget – there are five separate actions you can take for pollinators to earn digital badges for your certificate. Ashley Livingston (Lethbridge AB) and her children are well on their way, with a registered BFG and an iNaturalist account to document the pollinators taking advantage of the habitat they created!



They took a rather sterile front yard and turned it into a pollinator haven. This is exactly the kind of change that we are hoping to inspire through Bee Friendly Gardening!

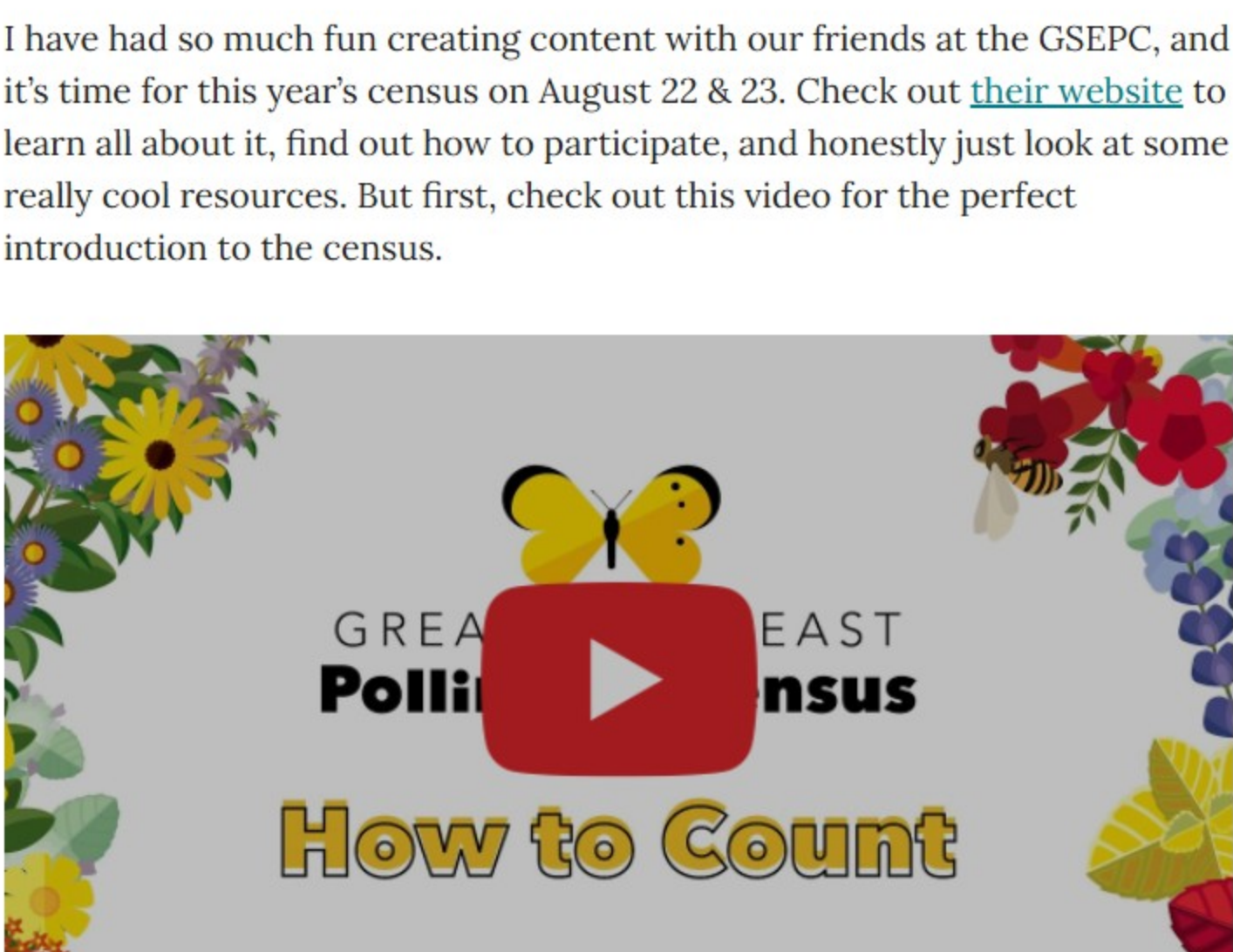


Have you built a BFG yet? If so, make sure to [register it](#) with us. We'll get your garden on our map and send instructions to join our iNaturalist project.

[REGISTER YOUR GARDEN](#)

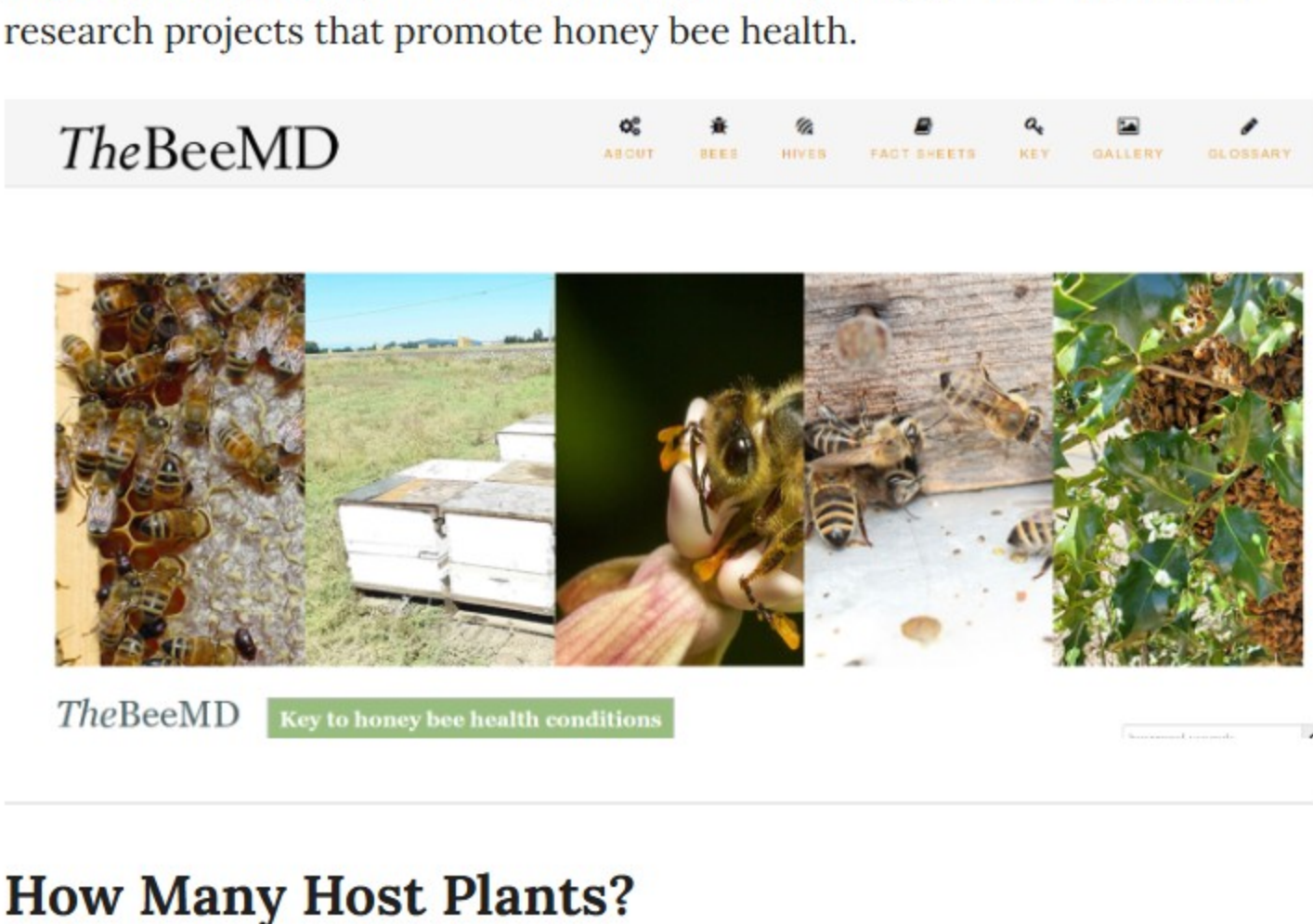
The Great Southeast Pollinator Census (GSEPC)

I have had so much fun creating content with our friends at the GSEPC, and it's time for this year's census on August 22 & 23. Check out [their website](#) to learn all about it, find out how to participate, and honestly just look at some really cool resources. But first, check out this video for the perfect introduction to the census.



Honey Bee Health Task Force

The Honey Bee Health Task Force is one of the original NAPPC (North American Pollinator Protection Campaign) Task Forces. NAPPC's mission is to encourage the health of resident and migratory pollinating animals in North America, and brings together a growing, collaborative body of more than 170 diverse partners, including respected scientists, researchers, conservationists, government officials, and dedicated volunteers. This task force focuses on both small and large scale beekeeping, seeking to reduce stress and promote improved health of managed honey bee colonies. The Task Force's focus recently has been on [The BeeMD](#), a virtual resource to diagnose conditions in bee colonies, and the [Honey Bee Health Improvement Project](#), which has awarded nearly 100 grants since 2008 to research projects that promote honey bee health.

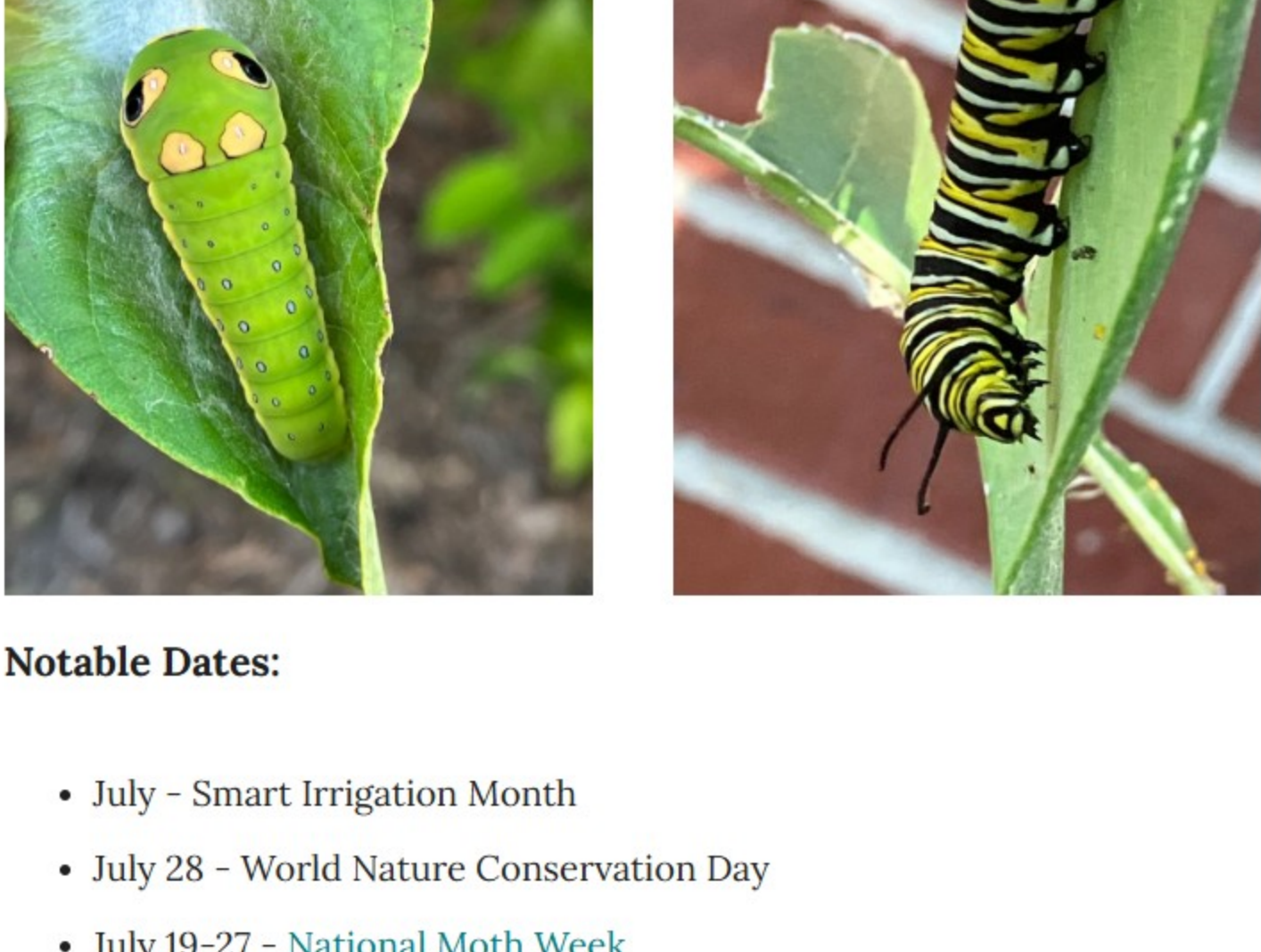


How Many Host Plants?

Highlight what host plants you have included in your garden, as well as the pollinators that they support. If possible, include photos. We would love to feature your collection of host plants in an upcoming BFG newsletter.

Simply email bfg@pollinator.org

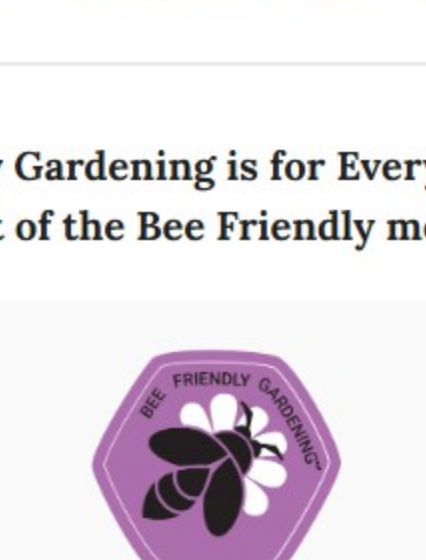
From BFG Director Sara Wittenberg: "My children and I challenged ourselves to add a new host plant each year, slowly increasing the diversity of habitat and thus the pollinators that soon followed. We have multiple species of milkweed (monarchs, milkweed tussock moths, milkweed beetles), spicebush (spicebush swallowtail), Dutchman's pipevine (pipevine swallowtail), common blue violet (Diana fritillary), passion flower (Gulf fritillary, red-banded hairstreak) and more!"



Notable Dates:

- July - Smart Irrigation Month
- July 28 - World Nature Conservation Day
- July 19-27 - [National Moth Week](#)
- August 16 - [National Honey Bee Day](#)
- August 17 - National Nonprofit Day

Thank you from Sara Wittenberg, your Bee Friendly Gardening Manager



Bee Friendly Gardening is for Every Landscape!
Be a part of the Bee Friendly movement.