



Bee Friendly Gardening™

June 2023

Happy Pollinator Week!



We hope everyone's having a good Pollinator Week. If you're still looking for ways to celebrate, visit the official [Pollinator Week website](#) for some ideas. Pollinator Week is an annual celebration in support of pollinator health that was initiated and is managed by Pollinator Partnership. It is a time to raise awareness for pollinators and spread the word about what we can do to protect them.

Promoting Beneficial Insects in the Garden: Beetle Banks, Insectary Strips, and Hedgerows

By Joanna Scott – Indiana Pollinator NRCS Liaison

Insects play an essential role in our gardens and farm operations and sometimes we focus so much on the pests, when actually our gardens are full of insects that are beneficial.

Beneficial insects are ones that have positive effects on the landscape, including helping recycle nutrients, aerating the soil profile, providing pollination, and aiding in natural pest control, in turn requiring less pesticide use. Beneficial insects can also be referred to as insect predators or natural enemies, killing off the pests.

In this article, I'll be addressing three methods for fostering beneficial insects in your landscape. All three of these methods have very similar attributes, as they all provide habitat and food resources for beneficials. Depending on what your landscape and garden setup is like, you may consider adopting one or a combination of methods.



READ ARTICLE

We are so happy to introduce the Bee Friendly Gardening Members Only Webpage



Only members of the program have access, and here is your [exclusive link](#). Make sure that you bookmark this page so that you can return to it whenever you would like. This will be your headquarters for all things BFG going forward. If you haven't already, join our BFG [Members Only Facebook page](#).

This is a way to build community among our members, and a great chance for you to share photos of your garden and the pollinators that visit it. Speaking of visitors – we sincerely hope that you will join our [iNaturalist project](#). This is the primary way in which we will track the collective impact our Bee Friendly Gardens are having.

The Member Page houses several links that only members have access to: [BFG Stuff](#) (where you can order a sign, a hat, and - most recently - discounted posters), the [newsletter archives](#) (in case you missed some earlier editions), [webinars](#) curated just for our Bee Friendly Gardeners, and an [opportunities tab](#) that we will update as we have special opportunities available to our members (right now you can apply for native wildflower seed, and as a BFG member you will get priority).



We always accept your feedback on the program and your garden story/photo submissions. Bookmark the [Members Only page](#) now.

VIEW MEMBERS ONLY PAGE

Shedding Light on the Importance of Shade – Part 2

By Laura Jach Smith, Wisconsin NRCS Pollinator Liaison, Pollinator Partnership

Trees and shrubs provide important food and shelter for pollinators, so don't be afraid to cast shade upon your yard. Establishing native trees or shrubs can provide a nectar and pollen resource central to local wildlife, simply because many woody species bloom in spring or early summer before most of the prairie forbs. Many native woody species also are host plants, meaning they are the primary food source for the larval (caterpillar) stages of butterflies and moths. Native willow, oak, maple, dogwood, black-, pin- and chokecherry, serviceberry, elderberry, wild plum, nannyberry, and sumac all provide high-quality food for our pollinators, and are a source of food for caterpillars. These caterpillars are also the primary food for many species of local and migratory songbirds, making many of our native trees and shrubs keystone species, or species that build and support large food webs in our ecosystems.

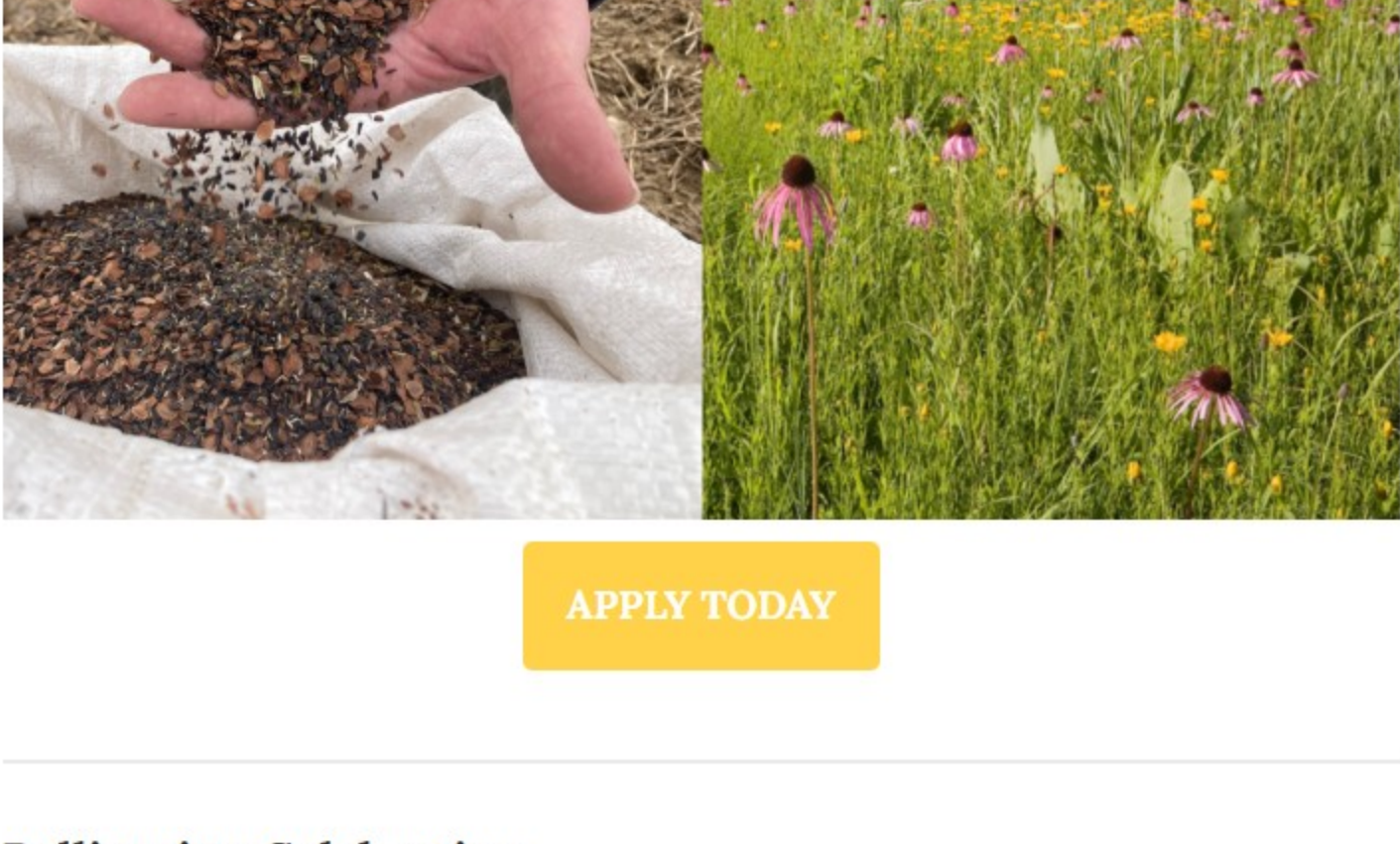


READ ARTICLE

Apply for our Native Wildflower Seed Grant

Pollinator Partnership (P2) is currently working with Toyota Motor North America (TMNA) to help enhance, protect, and restore vital pollinator habitat across the United States, Mexico, and Canada. This habitat provides a home for pollinators such as bumble bees, honey bees, monarch butterflies, and a whole host of other species that together help sustain food production and ecosystem health throughout North America. The goal of this partnership is to develop and enhance 26,000 acres of pollinator habitat by 2025.

We're thrilled to share that we will be offering a native wildflower seed grant program again this year as part of our partnership with Toyota. Through this program, P2 seeks to provide FREE supplemental native wildflower seed to assist habitat projects and further the impact of their current efforts. The application will be opening June 20th, 2023, and seed awards will be distributed to selected sites in early Fall of this year. If you are looking to fill some gaps or add some diversity to your Bee Friendly Garden, we encourage you to apply. A special [application form](#) has been set up in order to give Bee Friendly Garden members priority for this grant opportunity. We look forward to hearing from you!



APPLY TODAY

Pollination Celebration

Celebrate National Pollinator Week with us at Springfield Park in Oak Lodge! On June 24, from 1-3 p.m., join North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District and Pollinator Partnership to learn about several new pollinator gardens in parks throughout the District. Discover the wonderful world of pollinators and find out what you can do to support pollinator health through information booths (our Pacific Northwest Associate Cody Wilson will have a table, so look him up) , fun hands-on activities and crafts. Enjoy ice cream, face painting and free wildflower seeds. This free, family-friendly event is open to all ages.



LEARN MORE

Send us a photo of your Bee Friendly Garden



Billy Synk – Pollinator Partnership's Pollinator Habitat Specialist

SEND BFG PHOTOS

Notable Dates:

- June 21 – Summer Solstice
- June 19-25 – [Pollinator Week](#)
- July – Smart Irrigation Month
- July 4 – Independence Day
- July 12 – National Don't Step on a Bee Day
- July 22-30 – National Moth Week

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



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