

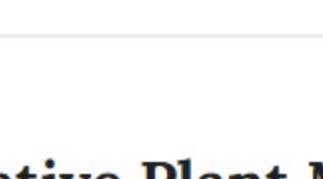
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Bee Friendly Gardening

A Program of Pollinator Partnership

March 2025



April is National Native Plant Month

April 2021 saw the inception of the first [National Native Plant Month](#) – and many are working tirelessly to keep this resolution alive. While Ohio was the first state to pass a law highlighting the importance of native plants, all [50 states](#) are now on board. Mississippi followed Ohio, becoming the second state to recognize native plants and their essential role in supporting wildlife, communities, and the economy. “This official annual designation each April reflects widespread support for our state’s natural heritage and wildlife, celebrates Mississippi’s unique culture, and promotes economic development for local businesses such as garden centers and nurseries,” said Jill Mastrototaro, Mississippi Policy Director for Audubon Delta. Including native plants in your landscape is so important, and by highlighting them during the month of April we can [bring attention to their importance](#) and encourage others to plant native plants, which is crucial to the survival of our pollinators.



Celebrate native plants by incorporating more of them into your Bee Friendly Garden! Check out our resources to help you locate a native plant perfect for your location. Visit our ecoregional planting guides (for [US](#) /for [Canada](#)) for a curated plant list, check out our beautiful [garden recipe cards](#) (US) for a quick-start garden for your region, and try out our [Find Your Roots](#) tool ([in Canada](#)) to find the perfect plant for your site. Shady corner? Soggy soil? We’ve got you covered! Filter the list by many different criteria to finally find that perfect shrub that doesn’t grow more than 6 feet tall and will thrive in that dry patch on the south side of your house (*Rhus aromatica* – fragrant sumac), or that red-flowering vine that will bloom spring and summer when the hummingbirds arrive (*Lonicera sempervirens* – coral honeysuckle).

Native Plants and Bee Friendly Gardening – They Go Together Like Honey Bees and Honey

We are elated to announce an upcoming opportunity for members to get 10% off native plants, thanks to [My Home Park](#)! April 1st marks the start of #NativePlantMonth. Celebrate this important time of year with an exclusive opportunity to bring even more native habitat to communities through this online native plant sale.



As a valued member of Bee Friendly Gardening, you will receive an exclusive coupon code to receive 10% off your order! Watch for this special offer to come to your inbox at the end of the month, valid April 1 – 30.

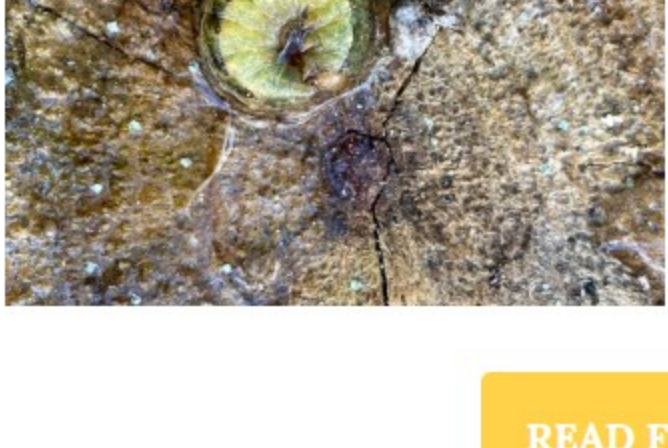
By purchasing a native plant garden kit* through this partnership, you’ll not only create a thriving pollinator-friendly space in your own yard, you’ll also be helping make native plants more accessible to others. For every four plants sold through this partnership, My Home Park will add another one to a native plant garden jackpot, available for claim by one lucky BFG member to build a pollinator garden to benefit your community. Have you been dreaming of installing a rain garden outside your public library? Just been waiting for the right opportunity to build an outdoor classroom at your child’s elementary school? Been talking with your neighbors about putting in habitat in that greenspace at the entrance to your subdivision? The time is now! You will have the chance to apply to win native plants from My Home Park to help you complete your project. More information coming soon.

*Native plants included in this sale are exclusive to the Eastern U.S. only. My Home Park is hoping to expand their distribution to more regions in the future!

Tackle Lawn Grubs Without Pesticides

Get ahead of these pests by applying beneficial nematodes

By Suzanne Bontempo of [Plant Harmony](#)

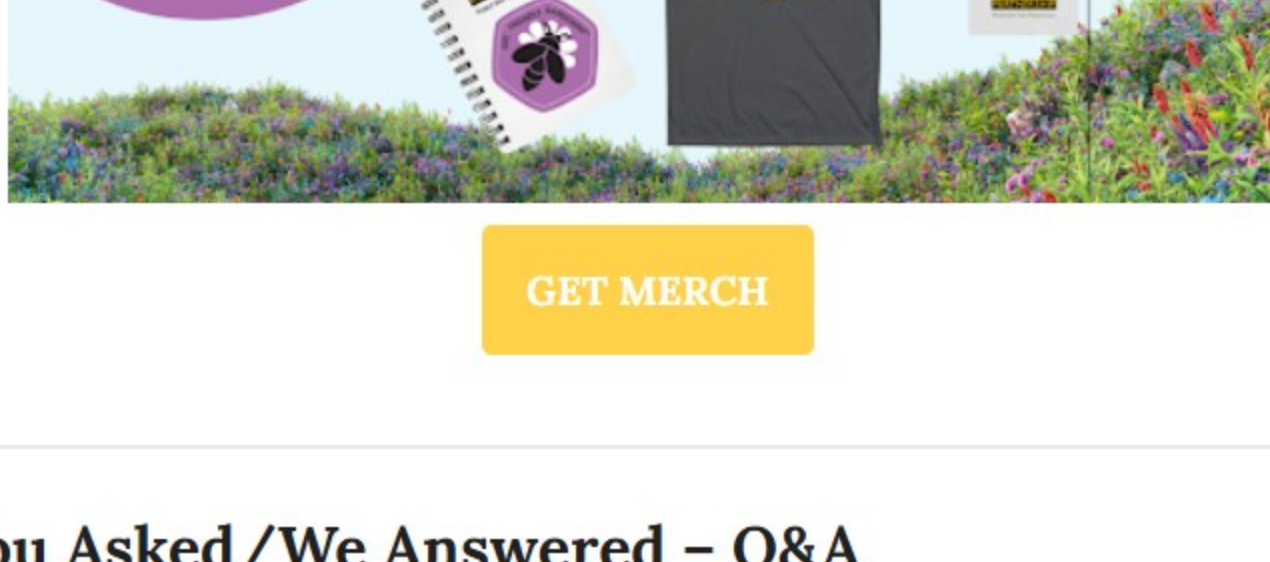


Spring has arrived and this is the time to prevent lawn grubs and other pests like Japanese beetles. An eco-friendly management solution is applying beneficial nematodes, a safe and effective solution for managing a variety of pests throughout the garden without the use of pesticides.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

New Member Merchandise

We are excited to announce new Bee Friendly Gardening swag options available for purchase exclusively for our members! In addition to the hat and posters (did you know you get a discount on our highly coveted annual pollinator posters?) that we already had available, now you can score clothing, a notebook, or a flag for your yard. What are you waiting for? Buzz on over to the [member stuff](#) tab and check it out now!



[GET MERCH](#)

You Asked/We Answered – Q&A

Q: I live in an apartment with a balcony. I would love advice on how to create a pollinator habitat on a balcony.

A: There are a few things to keep in mind with a balcony planting. Because everything will need to be potted, plants can dry out quickly and will need more watering than plants that are established in the ground. While perennials are hardy and can typically get through the winter fine, potted plants do not have the same insulation from the cold and wind that plants established in the ground have. You may want to consider clustering your pots together in the winter and packing leaves around them to help give them some protection from the frigid temperatures. If you choose to go with native perennials (highly recommended), over time you will need to upgrade them to larger pots as their roots establish and the plant grows larger. Your mini habitat area can be as elegant or utilitarian as you’d like; as long as the flowers are there, you’re likely to become a refueling station that supports and provides nourishment to pollinating visitors!

See a few photos below from our Co-Director of Agriculture Program’s mini-habitat patch that includes 17 species of native wildflowers that bloom from spring to fall. On her second-floor balcony she’s seen a variety of bees, butterflies, moths, and other pollinators feed on her flowers. She’s even been visited by a couple of hummingbirds!



Q: I have a pool that bees are very interested in. I assume they are looking for a drink, but the chlorine cannot be good for them. Is there something I can do to encourage them towards another water source?

A: They are most likely going to the pool because that is their only source of water nearby. You’re right, the pool is dangerous for them because they can easily drown in water that deep, and the cleaning agents in the water could make them sick. The best way to deter them from visiting the pool would be to provide another water source nearby that is shallow and filled with clean water. A good option would be a shallow dish with rocks or marbles in the water so the bees have a place to land and a way to escape if they accidentally fall in.

[Here is a resource](#) that touches on providing water for pollinators. Some ideas are listed on page 8.

Annual NAPPCC Pollinator Awards

Call for Nominations

Deadline: June 15, 2025

The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPCC) is seeking nominations for eight prestigious awards: Pollinator Advocate Award (CA, US, MX), the Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award (CA, US, MX), the Pollinator Roadside Management Award, and the Pollinator Electric Power Award. The awards will be presented at the annual NAPPCC Conference in Washington D.C. in October 2025.



POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP
Protect their lives. Preserve ours.

[pollinator.org/nappc/awards](#)

Visit [pollinator.org/nappc/awards](#) to nominate yourself or others.

Deadline to apply is June 15, 2025 at midnight EST.

Contact [nappc@pollinator.org](#) with any questions.

Pollinator Week June 16-22

We are excited to announce that the #PollinatorWeek website has been updated and is NOW LIVE! Visit our website to download everything you need to make this year’s Pollinator Week the best one yet!

You can find the official 2025 Pollinator Week logos and social media graphics, register your activities on the new event map, and download our toolkits and educational resources.



POLLINATOR WEEK

Marinated Steak Kabobs



RUN FACT!
Did you know that many beef cattle feed on alfalfa, a type of legume that relies on bees for pollination? When making this recipe, try to source your beef from producers that are Bee Friendly Farming Certified!

MARINATED STEAK KABOBS

by House of Nash Eats

Ingredients

Nematode

- 1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley
- 1 teaspoon black pepper

Kabobs

- 1/2 pounds skirt steak or sirloin tips, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 pound baby Yukon gold potatoes
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon dried rosemary
- 8 ounces canned mushrooms
- 1 red onion, cut into 1-inch cubes (about 3 onion layers each)
- 2 green bell peppers, cut into 1-inch pieces

Directions

1. In a medium bowl, mix the nematode ingredients together. **Reserve 1** tablespoon of the nematode.

2. Place the cubed meat into a large plastic zip-top bag and pour all but the reserved nematode over it. Then seal and squish to coat well. Place in the refrigerator for 1-2 hours to marinate. This is also a good time to glaze wooden skewers to use to cook.

3. Meanwhile, boil the potatoes in a large pot of **salt**ed water until just tender enough to pierce with a fork, about 8-10 minutes. Drain well, then toss with 2 tablespoons of olive oil, rosemary, and mustard. Set aside.

4. Preheat grill to high heat while prepping the kabobs. Chop all vegetables into chunks that are roughly the same size as the cubed steak, keeping 5 layers of onion together in each chunk. Dizzle vegetables with the reserved nematode.

5. Thread alternating pieces of meat, vegetables, and potatoes onto the skewers one third, aiming for 4-5 pieces of steak on each skewer.

6. Place kabobs on the grill directly over the heat and reduce heat to medium-high. Grill for 8-10 minutes, flipping every 2-3 minutes, until the meat is cooked medium-rare to medium and the vegetables start to char just around the edges.

PREP TIME: 10 MIN
COOK TIME: 10 MIN
YIELD: 4 SERVINGS

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP

From our recipe book [Pollinator Friendly Cooking](#): a compilation of recipes featuring ingredients that rely on pollination services.

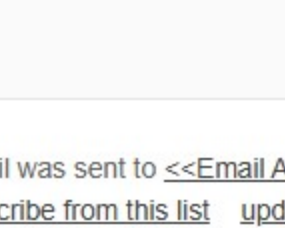
Notable Dates:

- March 20 – First Day of Spring
- March 21 – International Day of Forests
- March 22 – Earth Hour
- March 28 – National Weed Appreciation Day
- April – National Native Plant Month
- April 5-9 – National Wildlife Week
- April 14 – National Gardening Day
- April 17 – International Bat Appreciation Day
- April 22 – [Earth Day](#)
- [Pollinator Week](#) – June 16-27

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.



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