



Native Pollinators: Bees and Butterflies

Important workers for our environment



Life depends on little things we take for granted. - DisneyNature

Pollinators are animals that cause plants to make fruit or seeds. They do this by moving pollen from one part of the flower of a plant to another part, fertilizing the plant. Only fertilized plants can make fruit and/or seeds, and without them, plants cannot reproduce. The survival and protection of pollinators like butterflies and bees are critical to our way of life. In fact, more than 130 fruits and vegetables are cross-pollinated by honey bees and a third of our food as well as most flowers cannot exist without bees and pollinators.

Pollinators are suffering from the loss of wildflower habitat, rapidly spreading diseases and climate change. As a result, they are stressed out and more susceptible to pesticide poisoning. There are simple things everyone can do to help.



Plant Milkweed in your yard. It's the Monarch's sole food source as caterpillars. The caterpillar has a very recognizable yellow, white and red striping. As a butterfly, the monarch's wings feature an easily recognizable black, orange, and white pattern on its wings, with a wingspan of 3.5 - 4 inches.



Know the difference between a honey bee and a wasp — we need the honey bees! Honey bees are hairy, while wasps usually have smooth and shiny skin. Honey bees are oval shaped and golden brown or black with stripes. Wasps have narrow waists, four wings and may be brightly colored black and yellow. When in doubt, don't spray until you know for sure.

Be pollinator friendly — simple things you can do:

- Plant for the pollinators — use native plants. Contact your local extension office for more information.
- Support your local beekeepers. Purchase local honey, and ask for help if you need to move a swarm.
- Avoid using pesticides.
- Know the difference between a honey bee and a wasp.
- Encourage your local community to implement pollinator friendly practices.



Did you know? A honey bee hive is filled with thousands of female worker bees, male drone bees, and ONE queen bee. There are many native pollinator foraging plants and trees as well as honey bee hives throughout the park.

Encourage pollinators to your yard by planting clover and blue and purple flowers — since honey bees don't see red. Avoid using pesticides. If you must, please apply them in the evenings after foraging is done for the day and avoid windy days.



Thanks to:

Jeri McCormack and Marissa Stafford's 3rd grade writing group from Crooked River Elementary 2015-2016.

Find out more

Be a citizen scientist! You can help track Monarchs and milkweed by submitting your sightings to the online western monarch milkweed mapper at www.monarchmilkweedmapper.org

