



CREATE A POLLINATOR GARDEN!

A garden that provides forage (food and water) and habitat (shelter and nesting sites) for our pollinators will contribute to a healthy and sustainable future for both pollinators and people.

Steps:

- **Decide which pollinators you want to attract to the garden. Research the differences between and preferences of honey bees, native bees, flies, butterflies, beetles, and moths.**
- **Research the types of plants and/or shrubs that best attract and support those pollinators, and why. Include native and drought-tolerant species as much as possible, and deer-resistant if the garden is not fenced. Select plants for blooms from early February to early winter, to provide nectar and pollen for the pollinators all year long. ***
- **Select the garden space. Hopefully in a spot you will see and enjoy!**
- **Draw up a planting plan / design for the garden. Get creative!**
- **Prepare the soil. ****
- **Decide how it will be watered and install any irrigation needed.**
- **Visit a nursery to see the plants before you make the final selections. Observe which plants are the most attractive to which pollinators to help you make your selection!**

Here are the things you'll need to create a pollinator garden.

- An area with soil, either in the ground or in containers
- As much sun as possible (6 hours or more)
- Plenty of water (drip irrigation is best)
- Mulch (straw, wood chips or bark)
- Garden tools (ie. spade, trowel, shovel)
- Water for the pollinators, such as a shallow bowl (with pebbles above the water line for the pollinators to stand on) or a recycling fountain, and/or a muddy spot for butterflies to drink and obtain minerals

Garden Work:

Step 1. Once you have selected the spot, create the garden bed by tilling, bringing in garden soil, and/or sheet mulching. The soil should not be too 'rich', especially for natives, but should be weed-free, and ready to be planted. A raised bed (either contained or mounded) is recommended; see the easy sheet mulching method below. *

Step 2. If laying drip irrigation, put that in place.



Step 3. Place plants with enough spacing to allow for growth and as close to the emitters in the drip line as possible. Water thoroughly immediately after planting. **

Step 4. Mulching is a great way to discourage weeds. After watering the plants and the area really well, lay a 3-ply layer of wet newspaper on the ground around plants (The newspaper act as an extra biodegradable barrier against weeds.). Pile on a thick layer of mulch, ie wood chips, on top of the paper and water again. Note that the paper helps hold moisture in, but it will also necessitate watering close to the plant initially to get water down to plant roots. Or, dispense with the newspaper and just apply the wood chips on top of the soil around the plants. ***

New plants need frequent water in order to establish strong roots. For established gardens, periodic deep waterings are a good idea, especially during the driest weeks of summer.

Step 5. Enjoy the garden!

* To create the garden from the ground up on an existing, grassy/weedy spot, use the sheet mulching method to create the garden bed:

http://projectgrowgardens.org/uploads/media_items/cecguidesheetmulchgardeningsmg-1.original.pdf

** Just a few of the recommended plants include columbine, California fuchsia, penstemon, salvia, yarrow, dill, milkweed, aster, mum, coreopsis, cosmos, fennel, sunflower, nasturtium, lupine, lavender, lemon mint, marjoram, oregano, thyme, parsley, dill, phlox, coneflower, black eyed Susan, zinnia, liatris, goldenrod, rosemary

Also see these lists of excellent native pollinator friendly plants -

- <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/sites/default/files/documents/nativepollinatorplants.pdf>

- <https://klamathskiyouseeds.com/native-pollinator-plants-for-southern-oregon/>

*** We do NOT recommend using landscape fabric as a weed barrier in a garden environment! Not only is it not effective in the long-term - roots of weeds and grasses grow *down* into the fabric, making hand weeding more problematic - it also creates 'dead zones' by inhibiting the work of all the good soil critters we need in our gardens.

Here's an article with more information:

<http://northcoastgardening.com/2009/06/landscape-fabric-weed-barrier/>