





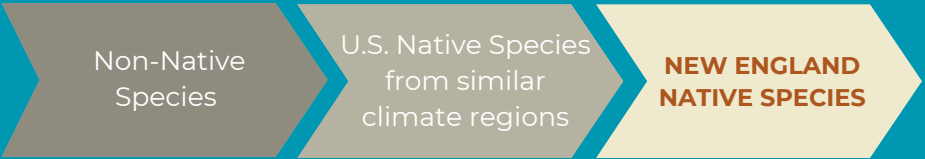
# WHAT ARE POLLINATOR GARDENS AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS?



## Pollinator Gardens

are specially designed green spaces that provide essential habitat for pollinators especially in urban environments. By planting native flowers, shrubs, and trees, these gardens **offer food, shelter, and nesting sites to support pollinators.**

### Prioritization for Pollinator Garden Plant Selection:



**Native plant species** are the most reliably beneficial for pollinators and should be prioritized.

## Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)

use natural processes to **protect, restore, and manage** ecosystems. They help manage stormwater, keep water and air clean, improve public health, and reduce natural disaster risks.

### Common Nature-Based Solutions:



Rain Gardens or Bioswales



Permeable Paving



Increased Tree Canopy



**Pollinator gardens & nature-based solutions not only support wildlife but also contribute to a healthier urban environment by improving biodiversity, enhancing green space, & connecting people with nature!**

## How Pollinator Gardens & Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) Address Urban Challenges:

- **Stormwater & Flooding →**
  - Use NBS such as rain gardens and bioswales to absorb runoff, reduce flooding, and prevent pollution from reaching waterways.
- **Habitat Loss & Fragmentation →**
  - Create pollinator corridors by linking green spaces.
- **Invasive & Non-Native Species →**
  - Increase biodiversity by planting native species that support local wildlife.
- **Urban Heat →**
  - Plants provide shade and cool surfaces by absorbing sunlight and releasing moisture in the air.
- **Artificial Light Pollution →**
  - Reduce outdoor lighting to help nocturnal pollinators.
- **Pesticide Use →**
  - Limit pesticides and use organic fertilizers to protect pollinators.
- **Landscape Maintenance →**
  - Leave the leaves! Fallen leaves provide shelter for overwintering pollinators.

## STEPS TO CREATE YOUR OWN POLLINATOR GARDEN PATCH!

You can support the pollinator network by planting native species at your yard, school. or anywhere else!

01

### IDEAL LOCATION:

☀️ Sunny area that receives at least 6 hours of sunlight per day is ideal. Otherwise, choose shade tolerant plants.

🌿 Any garden size can help support pollinators! The larger the area the more pollinator diversity you will see.

💧 Consider Water & Soil – good drainage, access to water, and healthy soil is important. Improve compacted soil with compost if needed.

02

### SUITABLE PLANTS:

🌸 Choose Native Plants because they provide the best food for local pollinators. Check out native plant lists and use a native seed mix to get started!

🌸 Select plants that bloom at different times of the year to provide pollinators with food from spring to fall.

🌿 Consider factors like sunlight, soil type, moisture levels, and space availability when choosing plants.

03

### CAREFULLY PLANT:

🌿 Arrange plants in clusters to help pollinators find them easily. Keep enough space between plants so they can grow properly.

🌿 Combine tall, medium, and low-growing plants to create a diverse habitat.

🌿 Remove grass or weeds before planting. Dig holes twice as wide as each plant's pot to help roots establish. Add a thin layer of mulch (less than 1 inch) to retain moisture while keeping mulch away from stems.

04

### PROPERLY MAINTAIN:

💧 Water well and keep soil moist during the first two weeks after planting, then water as needed when plants droop.

🌿 Avoid Chemicals. Skip pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides, which can harm pollinators.

🌿 Let It Grow Naturally – Allow plants to bloom fully, leave seed heads in the fall for birds, and provide habitat year-round.

*Information adapted from the Pollinator Partnership*

## LINKS AND RESOURCES

### Project Website:

<https://oxfordma.us/848/Massachusetts-Municipal-Vulnerability-Pr>



### Oxford Pollinator Challenge:

<https://oxfordma.us/777/Pollinator-Habitat-Community-Challenge>

