



North Oaks Conservation Award

Pollinator Conservation Best Practices

The honey bee population is in danger. As much as 70% of the bee population has died as a result of colony collapse disorder. Bees are under attack from a variety of sources, ranging from habitat loss to pesticides.

Our native bees are in danger as well.

Benefits of bees:

- About one-third of our natural food supply relies on pollination by bees.
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Best Practices for Pollinators - Ideas

- Grow a variety of flowering plants to attract and support bees. The more diversity in your garden, the more bees you will attract and support.
- To accommodate more species, be sure to plant flowers of differing sizes.
- Native plants are best because they require less maintenance and have evolved with bees native to our region.
- Plant flowers that will bloom at different times from spring to frost.
- Consider leaving dandelions in your yard, at least in the early spring. While in flower for most of the year, the dandelion's peak flowering time is from late March to May, when many bees and other pollinators emerge from hibernation. Each flower in fact consists of up to 100 florets, each one packed with nectar and pollen. This early, easily available source of food is a lifesaver for pollinators in spring.
- Limit the use of pesticides and herbicides (especially neonicotinoids) and follow the label directions..

Flowers that can be integrated into most Minnesotan landscapes and that are particularly attractive to bees include:

- Calico aster
- Wild lupine
- Wild geranium
- Herbs like thyme and oregano

More Information:

Contact the US Department of Agriculture



For more information about the North Oaks Conservation Award or Pollinator Conservation Best Practices, please call the City of North Oaks at 651-792-7750.