



Pollinators

How can you help pollinators?

- Plant a garden! Plant native species, which provide food and habitat for pollinators – even a small garden can make a big difference! Many native species can be grown from seeds that you can just collect yourself.
- Turn a small part of your home's lawn into a native plant habitat with easy-to-grow native flowering plants. By reducing the amount of grass you also reduce the time and effort to mow it!
- Spread the word! Tell your friends and family how they can help protect pollinators by planting native species and by not using pesticides and herbicides that harm them both.

Resources:

<https://www.fws.gov/pollinators>

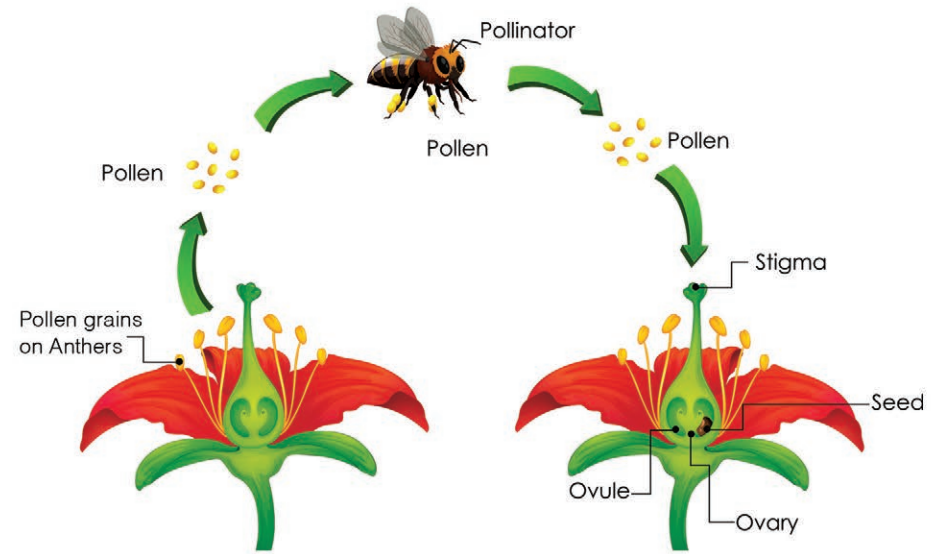
<https://www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation>



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*Educate.
Advocate.
Act.*



What is pollination?

Pollination happens when a pollen grain is moved from the male part of the flower (the anther) to the female part of the flower (the stigma). This is the first step in a process that produces seeds and fruits. But how does all that pollen get moved around? The answer is that pollen can be moved from flower to flower by the wind, by water or by animals.



Who are the pollinators?

While birds, bats, and small mammals pollinate some plants, insects like bees, butterflies, wasps, beetles and flies make up the very largest group of pollinators. These pollinators visit flowers to drink nectar or to feed on pollen. Then they transport the tiny pollen grains as they move from spot to spot. Since the time of the dinosaurs, flowering plants and insects have had this shared relationship that benefits the both of them, and today pollinators are responsible for bringing us one out of every three bites of food! Here are just some everyday foods that we eat thanks to pollinators:

- Honey
- Strawberries
- Almonds
- Cucumbers
- Blueberries
- Apples
- Pumpkins
- Chocolate



Pollinator Facts:

- More than 8 out of every 10 of the world's flowering plants require natural pollination to produce their fruits and seeds.
- More than 1200 common food crops depend on pollinators.
- Crops pollinated by honey bees alone are worth as much as \$5 billion dollars a year in the United States, but many other insects like native bees and flies help us put food on the table!
- Pollinators even help with milk production, because bees pollinate much of the clover and alfalfa crop that dairy cows eat.
- Fruits and seeds are a major part of the diet of about one fourth of all birds and mammals as well (chipmunks, squirrels, bears, voles, and many more!)
- All over the world, pollinators are in serious trouble because of climate change, habitat loss, pesticide use and disease.

Pollinator I Spy

How many pollinators can you find? Color them all in.

