

HOW TO CREATE A POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY GARDEN



A guide from Flowers Canada (Ontario) Inc.





TIPS TO GARDEN SUCCESS

A long-lasting and truly satisfying garden starts with high-quality, fresh Ontario-grown plants. These plants haven't undergone long distance travel or significant shifts in temperature and climate. Since they're less stressed, they easily acclimatize into new environments, such as your garden. Choose pest and disease-resistant plants to ensure longevity.

Use Compost Or Fertilizer

An important key for a healthy garden is keeping it fertile. A well-composted mulch or livestock manure, or well-diluted bone or blood meal will help plants thrive. When planting new plants, use products high in Phosphorus to encourage root growth.

Read The Tag

Some of the best advice is located on the plant tag. Most tags will make recommendations for the correct light conditions, watering guidelines, and planting location.

Avoiding Over-Watering

Provide water to plants in the morning when temperatures are cooler and use mulches to help preserve water in the soil. These simple actions will help establish root systems, prevent evaporation, and are also a good practice for water conservation. Applying too much water can be detrimental to some plants.

POLLINATORS AND YOUR GARDEN

Pollination can occur in many ways: bees, butterflies, animals, and wind. In Ontario, over 1000 insects and animals including bees and butterflies use pollen & nectar from flowers. By choosing locally grown, pollinator-friendly plants, you encourage these beneficial organisms to visit your garden and contribute to the health of the entire ecosystem.

Here's How You Can Help

- ❁ Use plants with different blooming periods to stagger flowering and attract bees throughout the growing season.
- ❁ Bees and pollinators prefer purple, yellow, white, and blue flowers with single, fragrant blooms.
- ❁ Choose composts, natural fertilizers and Health Canada approved insecticidal soaps to control garden pests.
- ❁ Take care of your garden. Prune and remove spent flower heads ("deadheading") as needed, to encourage new growth and a longer flowering season.
- ❁ Consider adding a water feature or birdbath to your garden to provide essential fresh water to pollinators.
- ❁ Leaving dandelions in the garden during the early spring will help bees start the season off with a food source when there are few others available.

DID YOU KNOW?

Pollinators across the country face many threats including the loss of food and habitat, pesticides, Varroa mites and pathogens like nosema.



ONTARIO ORNAMENTAL PRODUCTION, PEST MANAGEMENT

In Ontario, there are many biological pest control solutions available that are very effective at controlling pests and do not contravene the 2008 Cosmetic Pesticide Ban. Do research before applying domestic chemical pesticide treatments.

Ontario Ornamental farmers employ a variety of approaches to control pests, especially in greenhouse production where environments are more easily manipulated. Over 90% of surveyed growers indicated that they chose biological organisms to protect and prevent pests and diseases on plants over chemical treatments.

Some plants can often be grown virtually pest-free and therefore, require minimal control measures. When pests are encountered, Ontario flower growers practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices whereby they scout, use physical or cultural control measures, apply biological controls and, as a last resort, administer approved chemical corrections.

Where pesticides are used, growers always follow the Health Canada label instructions. These rare cases help to prevent the spread of disease and pests to home gardens, other farmers and avoid quarantine concerns.

Many pesticides used in floriculture production have not conclusively demonstrated that they remain in the crop for extended periods of time or that they even have any significant impact on pollinators. Health Canada, beekeeping groups, and many other researchers agree that ornamentals grown with occasional applications of pesticides, are not contributing to the problem of bee decline.



The majority of Ontario flower growers lead the world in their use of biological controls, choosing natural enemies like predatory mites to control pests rather than pesticides wherever and whenever they can to prevent pests and diseases.



CHOOSE
**ANNUALS &
 PERENNIALS**
 THAT ATTRACT POLLINATORS



Globe Thistle



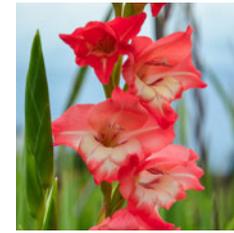
Cornflower



Coral Bells



True Geranium



Gladiolus



Nasturtium



Poppy



Lobelia



Primula



Blue Salvia



Allium*



Sage / Salvia



Calendula



Dahlia*



Lilium*



Marigold



Gaillardia



Grape Hyacinth*



Crocus*



Calliopsis



Iberis



Iris*



Evening Primrose



Goldenrod



Tickseed



Sunflower



Nemesia



Aster



Cosmos



Creeping Thyme



Sedum



Hollyhock



Forget-Me-Not



Snowdrop*



Helleborus



Bidens



Alyssum



Bee Balm



Lantana



Ground phlox



Echinacea



Zinnia

*Denotes a bulb or a tuber





For more information on locally & sustainably grown flowers please visit:

www.pickontario.ca

www.flowerscanadagrowers.com

For more information on bees and pollinators please visit:

www.uoguelph.ca/honeybee

www.ontariobee.com

