

# Plant a Pollinator Patch

Sunny Conservation Corner



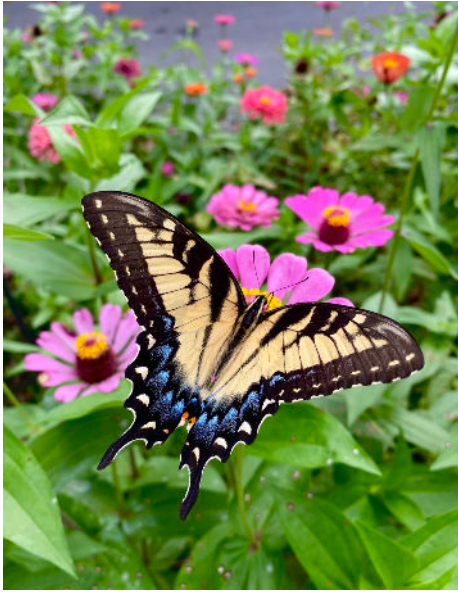
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## Why plant a pollinator patch?

Pollinators are essential because they transfer pollen, helping plants to reproduce. Over one-third of our fruits and veggies we consume rely on pollinators. Installing conservation corners, pollinator patches and pathways throughout neighborhoods makes it easier for pollinators to find nectar, pollen and places to rear their young and may also absorb and reduce stormwater runoff. Also, observing pollinator preferences and behavior throughout the year is a great way for families to learn about nature.

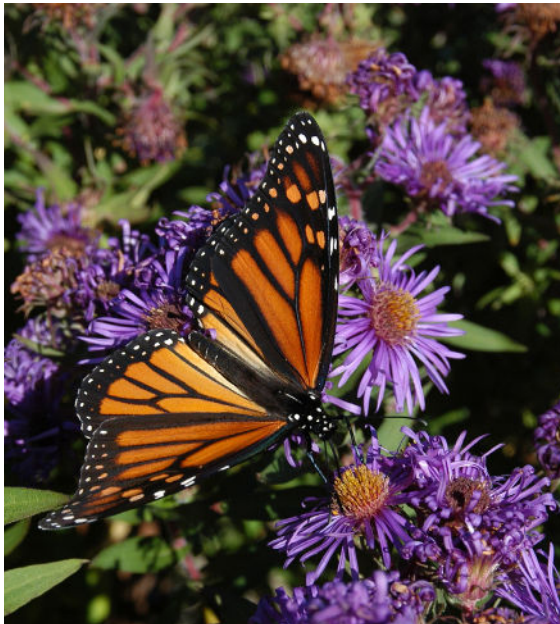
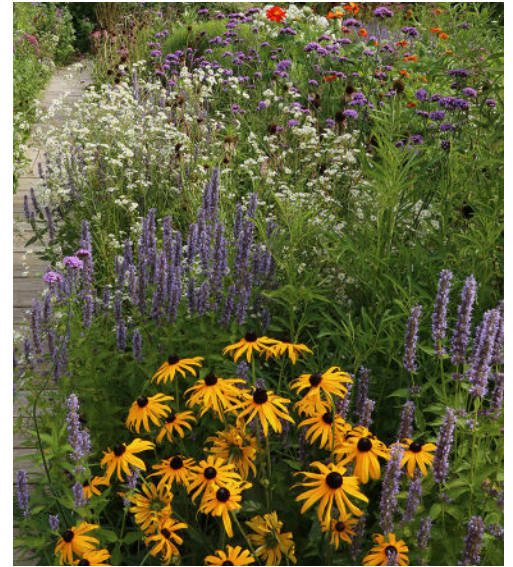


## Selecting Your Site

To add extra enjoyment consider planting your pollinator garden where it is visible from your windows. Select a site that looks 'intentional,' such as up against a fence or in a corner of your yard with natural driveway or sidewalk barriers. You can also start small and plant in container gardens. Determine how many hours of sunlight your site receives, as the sunnier the site, the greater diversity of plants it will support. Full sun pollinator plants prefer at least 5-6 hours/day.

## Plant Selection








While there are *many* trees, shrubs and flowers you could select, we chose the following because they are easy to obtain locally, have long blooming periods, have been tested in MowCow gardens and most tend to ‘stay in their lanes’ a bit more than other pollinator favorites. Having gardens look neat and tidy can be a very important consideration in neighborhoods with strict HOA guidelines.

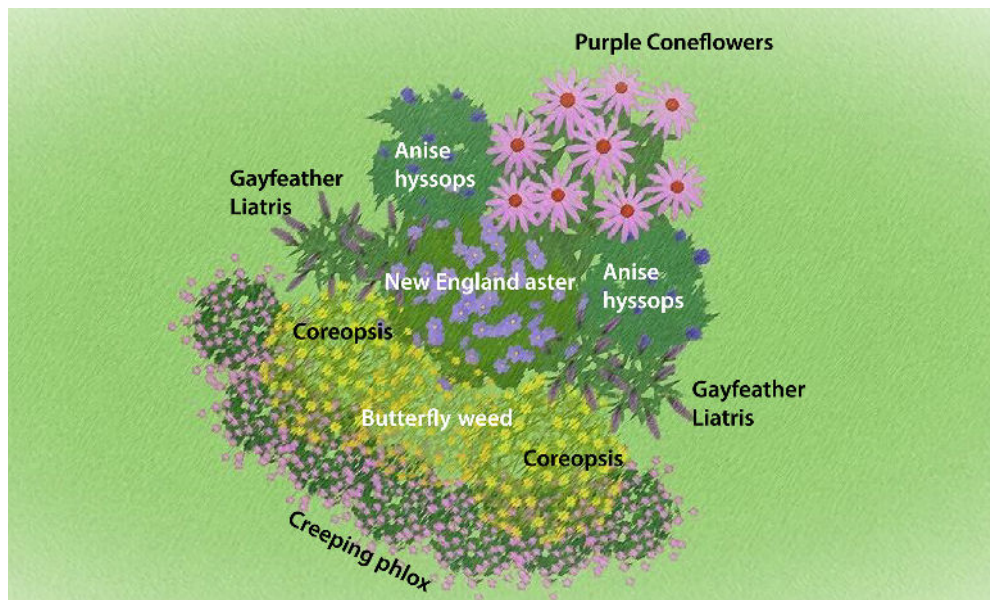


## Will these plants require maintenance?

Honest answer about Pollinator Gardens – Yes, if you want them ‘to stay in their lanes’ and keep a nice, season- long shape. But the good news is they are tough, and will bounce back from a mid-season pruning and need no fertilizer. We recommend rounding the New England asters once or twice in mid-summer to keep them lower growing and bushier, and cutting back the Hyssops to about a foot tall, mid-summer.



Plant	Bloom Time	Image
Purple Coneflowers <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Spring – summer	
‘Blue Fortune’ and ‘Premium Blue’ <i>Anise hyssops and Agastache cultivars</i>	Mid summer – mid fall	
Gayfeather <i>Liatris spicata</i>	Summer	
‘Moonbeam’ <i>Threadleaf coreopsis compact cultivar</i>	Late spring – late summer	
Creeping phlox <i>Phlox subulata</i>	Early – late spring	
Orange Butterfly weed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Mid – late summer	
New England aster <i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	Late summer	



## Site Preparation:

- 1.** To enhance curb appeal, we recommend building up the height of your soil base so that your garden literally ‘pops’ out of the yard.
- 2.** Outline the shape of your bed with line paint, string or even a garden hose.
- 3.** Remove turf grass from the garden site. Add about an equal mix of topsoil and compost to build up the bed height.
- 4.** Set your watered plants in their pots in the exact spots where you wish to install them.
- 5.** Take a few steps back to make sure you like the layout.
- 6.** Dig holes and install.
- 7.** Water gently and thoroughly.
- 8.** Mulch around the plants covering up bare areas where weeds may grow.
- 9.** Sit back and enjoy the biodiversity you will attract to your yard.