



The Conservation Seedling Nursery

Planting For Pollinators



The Importance Of Native Plants

Native plants are not just a beautiful addition to your landscape, they are essential for maintaining a healthy, balanced ecosystem. Unlike exotic or non-native plants, which are introduced from other regions, native plants have evolved over centuries, making them uniquely adapted to the local climate.

Native plants play a vital role in promoting biodiversity and providing habitat for a wide range of wildlife including birds, butterflies, and other pollinators.

Pollinators rely on native plants for nectar and pollen which is essential for food production and ecosystem health.

Moreover, native plants offer low-maintenance landscapes that require minimal upkeep and are naturally drought-tolerant with deep root systems that retain water, reduce run-off, and prevent soil erosion.

Why Plant For Pollinators?

Alongside plants, pollinators are another essential component for life on earth. They are an integral part of a native plant's life cycle and aid in the environmental services those plants provide to a healthy ecosystem.

One out of three bites of food we eat exists because of pollinators, meaning many many fruits, vegetables and nuts rely on pollinators for successful pollination and higher crop yields.

However, the number of pollinators has been in a state of decline due to a number of factors including: habitat loss, environmental contamination, disease, competition from non-native species, lack of quality food, shelter & more.

By incorporating native plants into your garden, you can offer a safe haven for pollinators, in turn enhancing food production and promoting the conservation of these critical species.

Types of Pollinators

Bats



Montana is home to 15 species of bats

Bees



Over 733 insects can be found across Montana

Butterflies



Birds



445 birds call Montana home

Native Plants for Pollinators

Flowers

Annual Sunflower
Balsam root
Beargrass
Blanketflower
Canada Goldenrod
Cutleaf Daisy
Fireweed
Hairy Golden Aster
Heartleaf Arnica
Oregon Sunshine
Prairie Smoke
Showy Fleabane
Showy Milkweed
Silvery or Silky Lupine
Spreading Dogbane
Sticky Geranium
Western Yarrow

Shrubs

Buffaloberry
Douglas Spirea
Elderberry
Golden Currant
Mock Orange
Ninebark
Raspberry
Red-Osier Dogwood
Skunkbush Sumac
Thimbleberry
Thinleaf Alder
Water Birch
Wood's Rose

Grasses

Basin Wildrye
Bluebunch Wheatgrass
Candad Wildrye
Columbia Needlegrass
Greenleaf Needlegrass
Idaho Fescue
Mountain Brome
Needle and Thread
Northern Reedgrass
Prairie Junegrass
Richardson's Needlegrass
Rough Fescue
Sand Dropseed
Sixweeks Fescue
Sandberg Bluegrass
Western Wheatgrass

Trees

American Plum
Bebb's Willow
Black Cottonwood
Booth's Willow
Burr Oak
Chokecherry
Douglas-fir
Engelmann Spruce
Limber Pine
Lodgepole Pine
Ponderosa Pine
Quaking Aspen
Rocky Mountain Juniper
Rocky Mountain Maple
Sandbar Willow
Serviceberry
Western Larch
Western Red Cedar
Western White Pine



The Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery produces native species from wild collected and source identified seed so you can genetically match the best seedlings for your pollinator planting.

Visit, <http://dnrc.mt.gov/nursery>
for more information.