

## London, Ontario ... on the path to being a “pollinator sanctuary”

Londoners are concerned about the effects of habitat loss and insecticides on pollinators. **How can we support pollinators here in the Forest City?**

**Appeal** for strong policies to preserve and restore ecological services, including enhanced pollinator habitat in The London Plan, London’s Official Plan, under such categories as Trees and Forests, Parks and Recreation, Natural Areas.

**Request and support** by-law changes to allow property owners to plant pollinator gardens.

**Engage** the City to lead by example by planting pollinator friendly landscapes throughout the City’s parks and other green spaces.

**Contribute** to pollinator gardens in backyards, boulevards, and other relevant spaces. Do not use synthetic pesticides or pesticide treated seeds and plants.

**Create** linked natural areas to preserve and increase pollinator habitat, while educating the community on the importance of pollinator health.



Bumblebee busy on a late September Russian Sage flower. photo: C. Downing

## Resources:

\* *The London Public Library is always a great place to start!*

<http://www.londonpubliclibrary.ca>

\* **Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)**

<http://www.thamesriver.on.ca/watershed-health/native-species>

\* **City of London**

<http://www.london.ca/residents/Property-Matters/Lawns-Gardens/Pages/Garden-Care-Tips.aspx>

Related staff - ecologist, urban forester and environment outreach coordinator.

\* **Community Gardens London**

[www.communitygardenslondon.ca](http://www.communitygardenslondon.ca)



Milkweed - now allowed - is the only food for Monarch caterpillars. photo: C. Downing

\* **Pollination Canada/Seeds of Diversity**

<http://www.pollinationcanada.ca>

\* **Pollination Guelph:**

<http://www.pollinationguelph.ca>

\* **Xerces Society**

<http://www.xerces.org>

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Brochure developed for the Advisory Committee on Environment, London, with assistance from many, in support of the goal to make London a Pollinator Sanctuary. November 2014

# POLLINATOR FRIENDLY GARDENS



photo: C. Downing

***Make your garden and London a safe haven for pollinators***

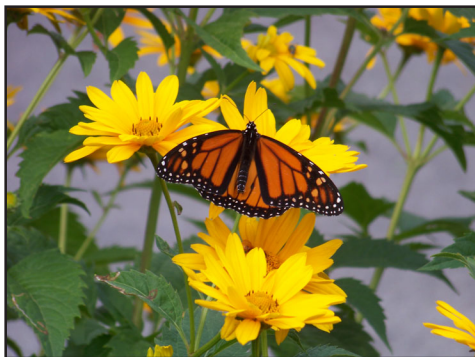
## A POLLINATOR FRIENDLY GARDEN

All seasons, all life stages.

Plant it, they will come!

Bees, butterflies, moths, dragonflies, wasps, flies and hummingbirds live on pollen and nectar supplied by shrubs and trees, perennial and annual flowers, herbs and vegetables.

Their foraging pollinates plants and fruit, and then seeds develop and feed birds and mammals. Pollinators and other wildlife need gardens, hedgerows, thickets, set-asides, trees and brush piles for food, cover and nest sites.



Monarch butterfly takes nectar from Coreopsis, a native plant. photo: C. Downing

## Proactive Protection

- \* Do not use synthetic herbicides or insecticides (especially the neonicotinoids) in your garden.
- \* Hybrid plants may have little pollen or nectar, or hard to reach pollen, and may be contaminated with pesticide at the nursery.
- \* **Be bold in the questions you ask of your plant supplier.**

## Positive Planting

- \* Plant for each stage of a pollinator's life — nectar producing plants for adults, food plants for caterpillars, plants for pupae. Leave overwintering space like brushpiles.
- \* Plant the widest range of plant types you have space for; plant in groupings.
- \* Perennials with flower clusters or a long bloom period, grasses, and trees give much nectar and pollen.
- \* Native pollinators appreciate native plants; they evolved together.
- \* 3 seasons of flowering in all the colours give continuous, varied food for the many different pollinators.
- \* Provide water, especially during drought. Insects can drink safely at the wet edges of water running over rocks, or the puddles from rain run-off and slow drip irrigation.
- \* Some native bees live solitary lives in ground burrows so keep a sunny, well-drained (sloped) area free of mulch. Other solitary bees nest in hollow, cut stalks or abandoned insect tunnels; you can make nesting areas from wood blocks or tubes.
- \* Talk to friends, neighbours, local organizations, businesses and politicians about becoming more pollinator friendly.



Bee gathers pollen and nectar from perennial Meadowswweet. photo: N. Beauregard

## Pollinator Friendly Plants



Goldenrod for late forage. photo: C. Downing

### Spring flowering

- \* Red and Black Currants, Raspberries, and Serviceberry feed bees ... and later give birds and humans tasty fruit!
- \* Willow for Orchard Mason bees, and Mourning Cloak & Viceroy butterflies.

### Summer flowering

- \* Perennial flowers for butterflies include Phlox, Swamp Milkweed, Rue, English Lavender and Butterfly Weed.
- \* Hummingbirds enjoy Bee Balm and Nicotiana; and Nasturtiums, which flower 'til fall.

### Late summer & fall flowering

- \* Perennial Goldenrod & Michaelmas Daisy; self-sowing cosmos for bees.

### Remember herbs & vegetables!

- \* Kitchen thyme in bloom attracts myriad tiny bees, wasps and flies.
- \* Lemon balm, catnip, peppermint, and sage feed pollinators, provide kitchen herbs, and may flower again.
- \* Vegetables like squash, cucumbers, beans, and peas must be pollinated to let humans have a meal and for seeds to develop for future crops.