

# Pollinator Garden Planning Worksheet

Pollinator Gardens are designed to attract and support a diversity of pollinators. That means a diversity of plants should also be present. Our program requires that at least half the plants planted be native perennials. This worksheet is just a guide to help you plan your project for success!

## Step 1: Choose your location.

When choosing the location it is important to consider the sun exposure and water. Areas that have 6+ hours of sunlight and shelter from strong winds are ideal, though there are plants that can thrive in more shady locations.

## Step 2: Prepare your site.

How will you remove existing grass?

- Sod cutter
- Tarping it for 4+ weeks
- Start the bed on top of the grass using cardboard as a barrier

Do you need to amend your soil?

- Dense clay may need compost/top soil mixed in
- Loose sand may need compost added for nutrients
- Planting into an existing bed may not need amending

## Step 3: Design the garden.

When choosing plants, consider:

- Height
- Colours
- Bloom time

(This does not have to be complicated. If you choose one feature you want to focus on, the rest should fall into place)

What kind of mulch will you use?

- Wood mulch
- Straw
- River rock

(natural options will be better for water retention)

How will you edge the garden?

- Plastic edging
- Wood
- Other

### **Step 4: Get planting!**

If you're already approved, it's time to get to work!

When planting, consider if you want something more organized, clumping plants together by colour, or a more wild look by mixing it all together.

For the first year or two, your garden will need consistent watering to help the plants establish. Once they are established, they may need to be watered in dry spells. Weeding will also be important for the first few years until the plants fill out.

Enjoy! Spend time admiring your new garden and counting how many pollinator visitors you get!