

Helpful Insects & Pollinators



## Class Objectives

- Habitat for pollinators
- Meet the Pollinators and Beneficial Insects
- Native plants
- Other annuals and perennials
- Get Involved
- Questions/Wrap-up

## Gardening Trends

- Utilize Native and Pollinator-Friendly Plants
- Add natural elements like rocks& boulders
- Don't trim hedges let them go a bit wild



# Why Pollinators & Helpful Insects are Important



- 99% of insects are harmless or even beneficial!
- About 75% of the world's major food crops require pollination
- 1/2 of the world's oils, fibers and raw materials require pollination
- Pollinate most flowers.
- Assist in breaking down organic materials.
- Feed upon other insects.
- Provide food for birds and fish.
- Provide useful products such as honey, wax, and silk.

#### Loss of Habitat for Pollinators



- Between 2006-11 over 1 million acres of prairie was lost
- Extensive use of herbicides that eliminate host and food plants
- Insecticide use
- Disease and invasive species predation

## Gardening for Pollinators

- Choose a sunny location.
- Test your soil to make sure it is adequate for planting.
- If space is limited, consider planting in pots or containers.
- Milkweed is a necessity for monarchs, so plant milkweed!

- Use native plants whenever possible.
- Water plants initially, until they are well established. You may also want to water in drought conditions.
- Avoid using herbicides or insecticides to get rid of unwanted plants or insects. Weed by hand as needed.

From: Monarch Lab, University of Minnesota

## Creating Natural Habitats

- Shield from winds--Include windbreaks, such as a fence, shrub, or wall.
- Plant to suit the animals you want to attract
- Create layers and more densely planted gardens while reducing areas dedicated to lawns
- Include a variety of different blooming species so that nectar is available throughout the growing season.
- Coordinate habitat with water use
- Locate food plants and feeders by shelter

#### Pollinators: Water and Shelter

- Provide layers of plants
- Leave dead snags for nesting sites
- Build bee boxes
- Leave some area of soil uncovered
- Group plantings

- Add water features
- Water sources include shallow or sloping side



#### Natives are Best

- Our native insects will not be able to survive on alien plant species." – Douglas Tallamy, "Bringing Nature Home"
- It takes evolutionary time for insects to recognize food
- Most insects are specialists



## Best of the Best Trees (#of butterfly & moths supported)

- Oak (534)
- Willow (455)
- Birch (413)
- Poplar (368)
- Crabapple (311)
- Pine (203)
- Spruce (156)
- Basswood (150)

Compare: Norway Maple (0)



# Best of the Best Perennials/Annuals (# of butterfly & moths supported)



- Goldenrod (115)
- Asters (112)
- Sunflower (73)
- Joe Pye Weed (42)
- Morning Glory (39)
- Sedges (36)
- Lupine (33)
- Black-eyed Susan (17)
- Milkweed (12)

#### Meet the Pollinators

 Bees, Butterflies, Moths, Beetles, Flies, Birds



- Food: plant in groups to increase efficiency
- Plant with bloom season in mind
- Plant a variety
- Herbs and annuals (even though non-native) are good for pollinators
- Recognize weeds as a food source
- Avoid pesticides



UW Madison Department of Entomology

Insect Diagnostic Lab

http://labs.russell.wisc.ed









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#### SAMPLE SUBMISSION FORM

Use our handy form when submitting physical specimens. Check the sample submission page for instructions.

#### RECENT BLOG POSTS

Don't Be an (April) Fool: Look Out For Ticks March 31, 2017

Wisconsin's Top Insect Trends of 2016 (#5 - #1) February 5, 2017 The University of Wisconsin-Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab was established in 1978 to provide timely and accurate identification of insects and insect-damaged plant material from around Wisconsin. Part of the mission of the IDL is to provide support to the county extension offices throughout the state. In addition, the IDL provides diagnostic services for the general public, private companies, agricultural producers, pest control professionals, the green industry, medical professionals, and other groups.

The lab processes between over 2,000 samples each year.

Homeowners are encouraged to check with their <u>local extension</u>

<u>office</u> for help first because many samples can be handled in a more
efficient manner locally. Mail in samples, e-mails (with pictures if
possible) and walk in samples are all accepted. At the present time
there are no charges for Wisconsin residents.



#### **Pollinators**

Pollinator: any organism that moves pollen between flowers



Detailed insect slides from: UW Insect Diagnostic Lab



## "Wild" Bees









All Photos on this slide by Christy

Stewart

Other Insect Pollinators

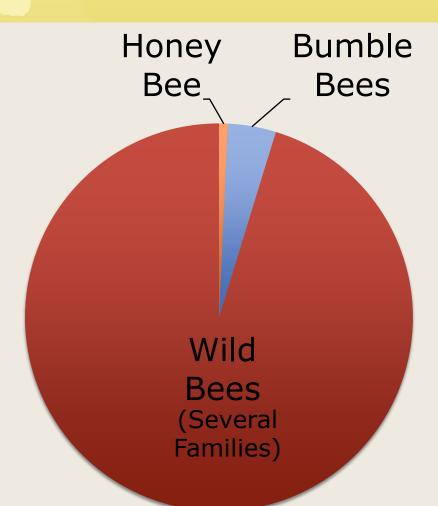








#### Meet the Bees:



#### Wisconsin Bee Identification Guide Developed by Patrick Liesch, Christy Stewart, and Christine Wen





#### Honey Bee (Apis mellifera)

The honey bee is perhaps our best-known pollinator. Honey bees are not native to North America and were brought over with early settlers. Honey bees are mid-sized bees (~ 1/2 inch long) and have brownish bodies with bands of pale hairs on the abdomen. Honey bees are unique with their social behavior, living together year-round as a colony consisting of thousands of individuals. Honey bees forage on a wide variety of plants and their colonies can be useful in agricultural settings for their pollination services. Honey bees are our only bee that produces honey, which they use as a food source for the colony during the winter months. In many cases, the honey bees you encounter may be from a local beekeeper's hive. Occasionally, wild honey bee colonies can become established in cavities in hollow trees and similar settings.





#### Bumble bees (Bombus sp.)

Bumble bees are some of our most recognizable bees. They are amongst our largest bees and can be close to 1 inch long, although many species are between 16 inch and 36 inch long. There are ~20 species of bumble bees in Wisconsin and most have a robust, fuzzy appearance. Bumble bees tend to be very hairy and have black bodies with patches of yellow or orange depending on the species. Bumble bees are a type of social bee and five in small colonies consisting of dozens to a few hundred workers. Their nests tend to be constructed in preexisting underground cavities,



such as former chipmunk or rabbit burrows. Occasionally, they will nest in hollow spaces within compost piles, hay bales, and similar above ground spots in yards. Luckily, bumble bees are typically docile and are unlikely to sting unless their nest is disturbed. Bumble bees can be active during cool periods when most other insects are inactive. Burntile bees are great at pollinating certain plants, such as tomatoes, and are often used in greenhouses for pollinating vegetables.



#### Leafcutter bees (Megachile sp.)

Leafcutter bees are small- to mid-sized bees (~ 1% - 1% inch long) and dark colored. They possess large mandibles, which are used like scissors to cut notches out of leaves. Leafcutter bees get their name from the female's behavior of cutting out round pieces of leaves, which they use to line their nests. These native bees nest in preexisting holes in wood created by other resects or in hollow plant stems. Females nest individually, although many females can nest in the same general area. Most female bees collect pollen and carry it using a patch of hairs on their back legs. Interestingly, leafcutter bees don't carry pollen with their hind legs-instead they carry it on the underside of their body



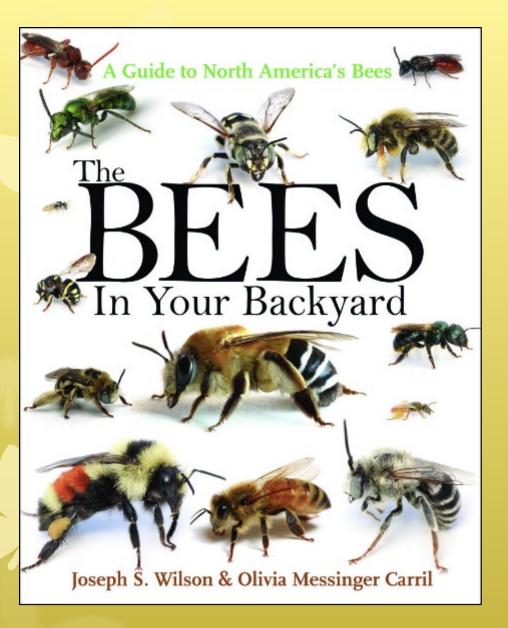
#### Small Carpenter bees (Ceratina sp.)

Small carpenter bees are small- to mid-sized bees (~ % - % inch long) and have a dark metallic body. Males have a distinct while patch in the middle of their head, between the eves. There are just a few species of small carpenter bees in Wisconsin, but these bees can be quite common. Female small carpenter bees typically nest inside of hollow heigs and plant stems. To create their nests, the females often dig out the soft, central pith to create a tunnel. These bees forage on a wide variety of flowers.



#### Sweat bees (Halictidae sp.)

Sweat bees get their name because some species can be attracted to the sweat on your skin. Many sweat bees are small in size (~ % inch long), although some species can be mid-sized (up to 1/2 inch long). They have dark or metallic green bodies. In some of the metallic green species the body is entirely green, while in others the head and thorax (first two body segments) may be green while the abdomen possesses black and yellow stripes. Female sweat bees are solitary resters and often dig nests in the soil. Some species prefer to nest inside of rotting logs. If you ever stumble upon a metallic green bee in a rotting log, it's a sweat beel Like most bees, these nsects are docile and are unlikely to sting.



## UWEX Pollinator Factsheet: G4001

540011

#### Supporting native bees:



Sweat lave (Hotimus qs.) an rattles rake

Rusty-patched bumblebes (Sombus affins) with pollen collected from purple prairie clover

Our essential pollinators

#### Fruit and vegetable pollination

providentarily 37% of the world's major food crops require or boards's from entered publication. This includes crops of the fluid sand vegetables grown in Williamship prefate, such as strawberries, lituseberries, respisaries, customs, plaines, pagine, exwections, possible, waterning, partial and temporary contributes, squash, and temporary politications are benefitide solely for seed productions.

#### Pollinators

Pollinators in Wisconsin are comprised mostly of insects such as bees, flies. wasps builtaffice moths, beefiles and ants, as well as humming binds. Tiers are the most important politicators for many plant species and feed almost exclusively on pollen and nectas. The non-native honeybac (Apis mell/arc) is the most commonly used managed hee for politization of large acreage cropplants primarily because it is easily reared and transported and lives in perennial. colonies that can attain a size of \$0,000 or more at their peak, the brue orchard hee, also referred to as the mason orchaid bee (Cars/o lianaria), is a native meneral pollmator for orchards, Just 250 of these hees, at opposed to 20,000 honeybees, will pollinate an acre of apple trees.



Small carporter bee (Certific sp.) nectaring on alpine strawberry blossom

#### ng and ing native ors

ter aware of the recent replace populations. However, adve one populations are Cultivating flowering plants, ting sites, and dilminating or ng pecticide use will benefit

#### ng flowering

using plants to provide food blot for pollitations, as and other wildlife. Consider it of your lawn to habitati for see heldow are commercially eating, native plants that are discourse of food for boxs, and you for plants that will bloom ing, to food early emerging to fill when stores boxs such equipment are proporting to must be east 2-3 plant species my given time.

#### Soil meisture

Average to wee

Average

Annaes:

Average to dry

Average to dry

Average to dry

Resplebush	Spirore tomentose	Summer to fall	2-4	Sur to port shade	Average to wet	
tmerican basswood	Tille americana	Summer	75-130	Sun to shade	Average	
Write meadowsweet	Spirace alba	Summer	3-5	Sun	Average to wet.	
examprose	Ασιαρολοιίο	Summer	ď	Sun	Wel	

#### Meet the Beneficial Insects

- Predators and Parasites
- Decomposers



### **Predators: Beetles**







Rove beetles



## Predators: Lady Beetles







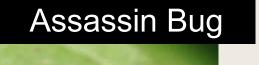


# Minute Pirate Bug

## **Predators: True Bugs**







1

## **Predators: Stink Bugs**



Spined Soldier Bug









# Predators: Flies

Hover Fly (Diptera: Syrphidae)



## Lacewings









University of Wisconsin–Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab

#### **Bald Faced Hornets**



# Predators: Wasps







Insect Diagnostic Lab



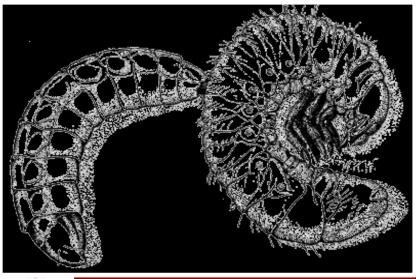
Paper Wasps and Yellowjackets

dison

## **Parasitic Wasps**

- Many species known
- Tend to attack only a single specific host
- Some have been purposely released for biocontrol







## **Parasitic Wasps**









## Pyrgotid Fly and May/June Beetle



#### **Parasites: Flies**

#### **Tachinid Flies**





**University of Wisconsin–Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab** 

## Bee Stings or bug bits?

- Plantain common weed
- Use as an effective poultice for bites or stings by crushing the leaves and rubbing the juice on the site

Photo Copyright: ANDRII GLUSHCHENKO



## https://wisconsinbutterflies.org/

#### wisconsin butterflies

butterflies

tiger beetles

robber flies

Search species

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#### Insect guides







Tiger Beetles



Robber Flies

#### Recent sightings

#### April 18

Joan Vennie, Dane County

Christine Stanke, Milwaukee County

Christine Stanke, Milwaukee County

Christine Stanke, Washington County

Sue Feyrer, Waukesha County

All sightings »

#### SWBA field trips

The <u>Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association</u> (SWBA, pronounced "Sweeba"), is our local branch of the North American Butterfly Association. They run field trips throughout southern Wisconsin every summer for seasoned butterfly watchers and novices.

Visit the SWBA site for more information about upcoming events.

## **Butterfly Gardens**

- Best colors: red, yellow, orange, pink and purple
- Full sun
- Easy eating with short tubes or long, flat petals
- Provide windbreaks



#### Plants for Butterflies & Moths

- Larval Host Plants:
   Monarch are specialists,
   most others are
   generalists
- Prefer to land on flat flowers
- Prefer nectar plants with shallow composite flowers
- o Many moths are nocturnal and are attracted to white or cream colored flowers with strong scents



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## Larval Host Plants – some examples

- Monarchs Milkweed (Asclepias)
- Swallowtails Golden Alexanders (Zizia aurea), parsley, dill, and fennel
- Orange Sulphur, Painted Lady, moths, Frosted Elfin Wild Lupine (Lupinus perennis)
- Moths Bee Balm(Monarda)



## Butterfly and Moth favorites for Food

- Perennials: Yarrow, Bee Balm, Shasta Daisy, Coreopsis, Verbena, Phlox, Coneflower, Butterfly weed
- Annuals: Zinnias, Dill, Cosmos, Petunia, Goldenrod, Morning Glory, Sweet Alyssum, Cleome, Marigold

O Host Plants: Borage, Dill, Snapdragon, Nasturtium, Parsley, Fennel, Butterfly Weed, Clover, Violets, Milkweed, Hollyhock



## Hummingbirds

- Feeders –
  4 parts water to 1 part
  sugar (5:1, 7:1 ok), boil
  for 2 minutes. No color
  needed
- Vines, trees, shrubs: honeysuckle, morning glory, weigela, flowering crabs



#### Plants for Hummingbirds

- Attracted to red, but also pink, rose, orange and purple
- Deep tubular flowers
- Flowers to plant: bee balm, begonia, bleeding heart, canna, cardinal flower, columbine, dahlia, delphinium, fuchsia, geranium, gladiolus, hollyhock, impatiens, lantana, lily, nasturtium, petunia, phlox, snapdragon, sweet william, verbena, zinnia.,



#### For the Birds



- Flower Gardens
- Composting Leaves
- Ground cover
- Rough Grass
- Small shrubs
- Consistent source of food, water, shelter
- Think vertically
- Avoid pesticides, excess fertilizer

## Plants that Support Pollinators



#### Native Trees best for landscape use



- Acer species (maples)
- Betula species (birch)
- Quercus species (oaks)
- Tilia americana (basswood, linden)

#### **Native Conifers**

- Juniper: Prefers neutral to slightly acidic well-drained soil in full sun; tolerates drought and wind
- Balsam fir: Best in cool, damp places in partial shade to sun, keep away from hot, drying winds
- White Spruce: Best in well-drained, slightly acidic soils in full sun, keep away from winter winds and road salt
- White Pine: Best in fertile, acidic, well-drained soils in full sun. Does not need protection from winds but keep away from road salt
- White cedar-arborvitae: Moisture retentive soil in full sun or part shade, keep away from dry, windswept locations

#### Native Landscape Shrubs

- Amelanchier species (serviceberries)
- *Ilex verticillata* (winterberry)
- Physocarpus opulifolius cultivars (ninebark)
- Potentilla fruticosa cultivars (shrubby cinquefoil)
- Prunus nigra 'Princess Kay' (Canada plum)
- Viburnum species (viburnums)







#### Native Perennials



#### Bee Balm Monarda, Wild bergamot

- 15-48 inches tall
- Flowers bloom early to mid-summer in red, pink, purple or white
- Sun to part shade in well-drained, moist soil
- Powery mildew can be a problem
- Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees



Coneflower Echinacea spp



- Natives and hybrids
- 2-3 ft tall and wide
- Bloom July to August
- Full sun, well-drained soil, drought tolerant
- Reseed and hybridize easily: to keep the plants you started with, deadhead spent flowers or pull seedlings.

#### Iris

- Native & Hybrids
- Full sun, well-drained
- Divide mid to late summer every 3-5 years for good blooms
- o Iris borer remove foliage in fall, if brown streaks on leaves dig rhizomes and dip in solution of 1 part bleach to 4 parts water



# Columbine *Aquilegia*

- Self-seeder, cross hybrids easily
- Hybrids tend to be shortlived
- Full to part sun; moist, well-drained soil
- Bloom in spring



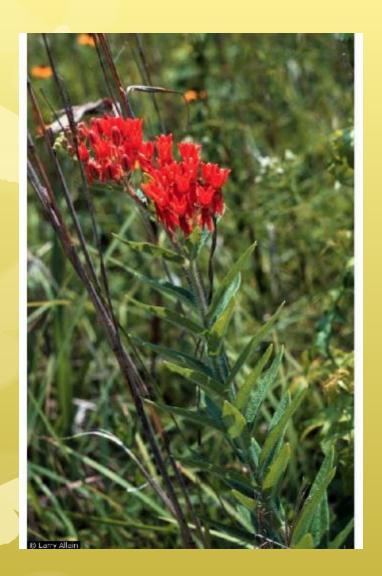


Photo: Larry Allain @ USDA-NRCS

**PLANTS Database** 

#### Butterfly Weed Asclepias tuberosa

- Native to dry prairies
- Flowers from late spring to late summer
- Attracts butterflies
- Moist to dry soils in full sun to light shade
- Mature plants tolerate dry soil

## Aster novae-angliae

- Native, fall-bloomer
- Moist, average soil in full sun to part shade
- Likes consistent moisture
- Pinch back stems in late May for bushier plants
- O Divide plants in spring every 3<sup>rd</sup> year
- Avoid too much nitrogen which results in floppy plants and abundant foliage



## Turtlehead Chelone Glabra

- White turtlehead native to moist prairies
- Evenly moist to wet, rich soil in full sun to light shade
- Mature plants will tolerate dry spells
- Bloom late summer and early fall
- Plants spread by rhizomes but do not become invasive



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## Joe-pye weed Eupatorium purpureum



- Native to wet slopes, low prairies and woodlands
- Prefers moist, average to rich soil in full sun to light shade
- Tolerates drier conditions
- Easy to grow once established
- Divide in spring or fall
- Reseeds
- Plants too close may suffer from powdery mildew

#### Obedient Plant Physostegia virginiana



- Full sun to part shade
- Moist, well-drained soil but will tolerate drier conditions and part shade
- Showy native, fall flowers
- Spreads aggressively by underground rhizomes
- Plant in shade for less aggressive or plant 'Miss Manners' (white), 'Variegata' (pale pink), or 'Vivid' (Rose)

#### Blazing Star or Gayfeather Liatris spicata



Photo: ©2010 Grow Native!

- Native to prairies, savannas
- Showing pink-purple flower spikes in summer
- Moist, fertile, well-drained soil in full sun
- Once established, somewhat drought resistant
- Plants can reseed
- Wisconsin's special concern list
- Attracts bees, hummingbirds, butterflies

#### Black-eyed Susan Rudbeckia hirta var. pulcherrima

- Native in variety of WI habitats
- Biennial or short-lived perennial
- Blooms attract bees and butterflies
- Winter interest
- Adapts well to container culture
- Sow seeds two years in a row for yearly blooming, once established plants will selfseed
- Rich soils tend to produce weak-stemmed plants



### Lupine (Lupinus perennis)



- Biennial, Prefers dry, sandy soils, full sun
- Plants go into dormancy after blooms
- Is the only food plant for the caterpillar of the karner blue butterfly
- Difficult in a landscape setting

### Goldenrod (Solidago rigida)



- Also known as stiff goldenrod, somewhat weedy plant, grows 3-5 feet tall
- Flowers attract bees & butterflies
- Prefer average to infertile, well-drained soil in full sun

### Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis)

- Moist to wet soils, in partial sun
- Height: 2-4 feet
- Is short-lived, so add seedlings every couple of years to maintain
- Plants may not survive winter if insufficient moisture, mulch is helpful



Photo: Rotary Gardens, Janesville - Mark Dwyer

## Sedges (Carex sp.)







- Cool season, 2-4'
- Upright, open
- Average to wet soils, light to full shade
- Good alternative to lawn grasses in the shade
- Cultivars:
  - 1. Carex grayi, Gray's sedge
  - Carex muskingumensis,
     Palm sedge 'Little Midge'
     and 'Oehme'
  - 3. Carex morrowii 'Bowles Golden' and 'Ice Dance'

# Annuals and Non-natives for Pollinators



## Hollyhocks alcea rosea

- Full sun, well-drained soils
- Classified as a biennial or short-lived perennial
- Reseed readily
- Water plants thoroughly whenever top few inches of soil is crumbly and moist, keep foliage dry to minimize disease problems
- Avoid excess nitrogen that can increase disease



#### Cosmos



- Starts from seeds or transplants after last spring frost
- Avoid over fertilizing, too much nitrogen will produce tall, leafy plants
- Pinch back early in season to promote fuller, sturdier plants
- Attracts butterflies

#### Heliotrope (Heliotropium arborescens)

- Tender perennial, can be used as an indoor plant in winter
- Available as seed or as bedding plant
- Grow in full to part sun in moist well-drained soil
- Often grown as a container plant
- Nectar source for hummingbirds and butterflies



### Mexican sunflower (Tithonia rotundifolia)



- Full sun annual, dry to medium moisture in well-drained soil
- Start from seeds or transplants
- 4-6 feet tall
- Avoid rich soils to prevent excess foliage
- Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies; deer resistant

### Morning Glory (Ipomoea purpurea)

- Annual vine, starts from seeds or transplants
- Grow in full sun, guide onto a support structure
- Each flower opens in the morning and lasts 1 day
- Avoid excess water and fertilizer for more flowers and less leaves
- Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds



#### Sedum

- O Non-native
- Low-maintenance
- Four seasons of interest
- Blooms summer to fall
- Full sun
- Lean soil, well-drained
- Reduce flopping on tall plants by cutting back by ½ in spring when plant is 8 inches high



### Starflower (Pentas lanceolato)



- Long blooming annual (may be difficult to find)
- Grow in full sun with moist well-drained soils
- Also a nice cut flower
- Provide nectar for butterflies and hummingbirds

### Sun Flowers (Helianthus annuus)

- Native annual
- Start from seed or transplants
- Full sun in well-drained soil
- Water regularly
- Proper spacing will avoid powdery mildew
- Can harvest seeds by removing flower with 1-2 ft. of stems and hanging upside down to dry, store in refrigerator



#### How You Can Get Involved

- 1. Knowledge, become a citizen scientist
- 2. Address habitat loss in your backyard
- 3. Support organizations that preserve pollinators
- 4. Add host and food plants to your garden



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#### Observing and Recording

- Keep a garden journal
- Organize data
- Photography
- Take note of first appearance of plant or birds or insects
- Mark beginnings and endings (1<sup>st</sup> frost, temperature)



### Phenology

- Study of plant and animal life cycles and how these are influenced by seasons and variations in climate
- Lilac is the cornerstone for observations
- Monarchs have been studied and is considered an indicator on the effects of climate changes to insect populations
- O Chicory is a summerblooming indicator plant, when first flowers open prevent damage from squash vine borer
- Canada thistle in bloom, apple maggot adults are abundant and fruit should be protected

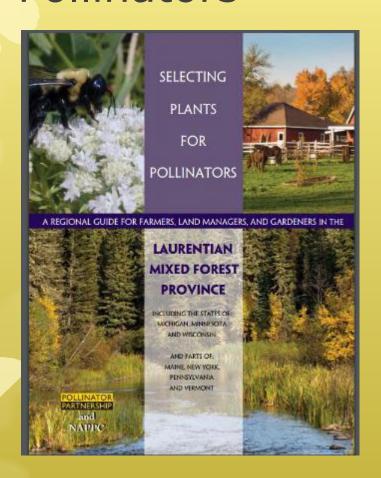
#### Organizations

- Monarch Watch <a href="http://monarchwatch.org/">http://monarchwatch.org/</a>
- Wild Ones <u>www.wildones.org</u> Website on native plants, natural landscapes
- Pollinator Partnership <a href="www.pollinator.org">www.pollinator.org</a> Organization dedicated to the protection and promotion of pollinators and their ecosystems. Download a free 'Pollinator Friendly Planting Guide'.
- Million Pollinator Garden Challenge
   <a href="http://millionpollinatorgardens.org/">http://millionpollinatorgardens.org/</a> Campaign to register a million pollinator gardens

#### Resources

- O A Guide to Natural Gardening, Jim Knopf, Sally Wasowski, John Kadel Boring, Glenn Keator, Jane Scott, Erica Glasener, Fog City Press 1997
- O *Bringing Nature Home*, Douglas W. Tallamy, Timber Press, 2007.
- O *Pollinators of Native Plants*, Heather Holm, Pollination Press, 2014
- "Supporting native bees: Our essential pollinators", UW Extension bulletin G4001 <a href="https://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/G4001.pdf">https://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/G4001.pdf</a>

## Resource-"Selecting Plants for Pollinators"



http://www.pollinator.org/P
DFs/Laurentian.rx9.pdf

#### Resources

- Landscaping with Native Plants of Wisconsin, Lynn
   M. Steiner, Voyageur Press, 2007
- UW Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/insectlab/
- Wisconsin Bee Identification Guide, <u>https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/files/2016/08/WI-BEE-IDENTIFICATION-GUIDE.pdf</u>
- O The Bees in Your Backyard, A Guide to North America's Bees by Joseph S. Wilson, Olivia J. Messinger Carril
- Bug Finder Identification <u>searchable database</u>
   <a href="http://www.insectidentification.org/">http://www.insectidentification.org/</a>

## Questions/Wrap- up

