Gardening for Pollinators

Meet Our Pollinators

- Pollination is the transfer of pollen, or male gametes, from one flower to another.
- Between 60% and 80% of flowering plants require an animal to effectively reproduce.

V.I.P.s = Very Important Pollinators

There are roughly **200,000** species belonging to four insect groups that pollinate flowers; this comprises 20% of all known insect species.

Bees & other Hymenopterans	47%
Flies	26%
Beetles	15%
Butterflies & Moths	10%
Others	2%

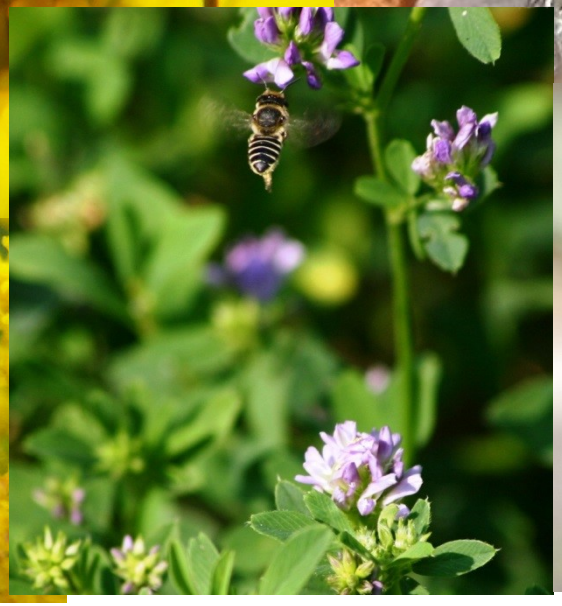
4 threats to Pollinators…and one bright spot

- Loss of habitat
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Pollutants
- Invasive species

Honeybees – The Ultimate Pollinator

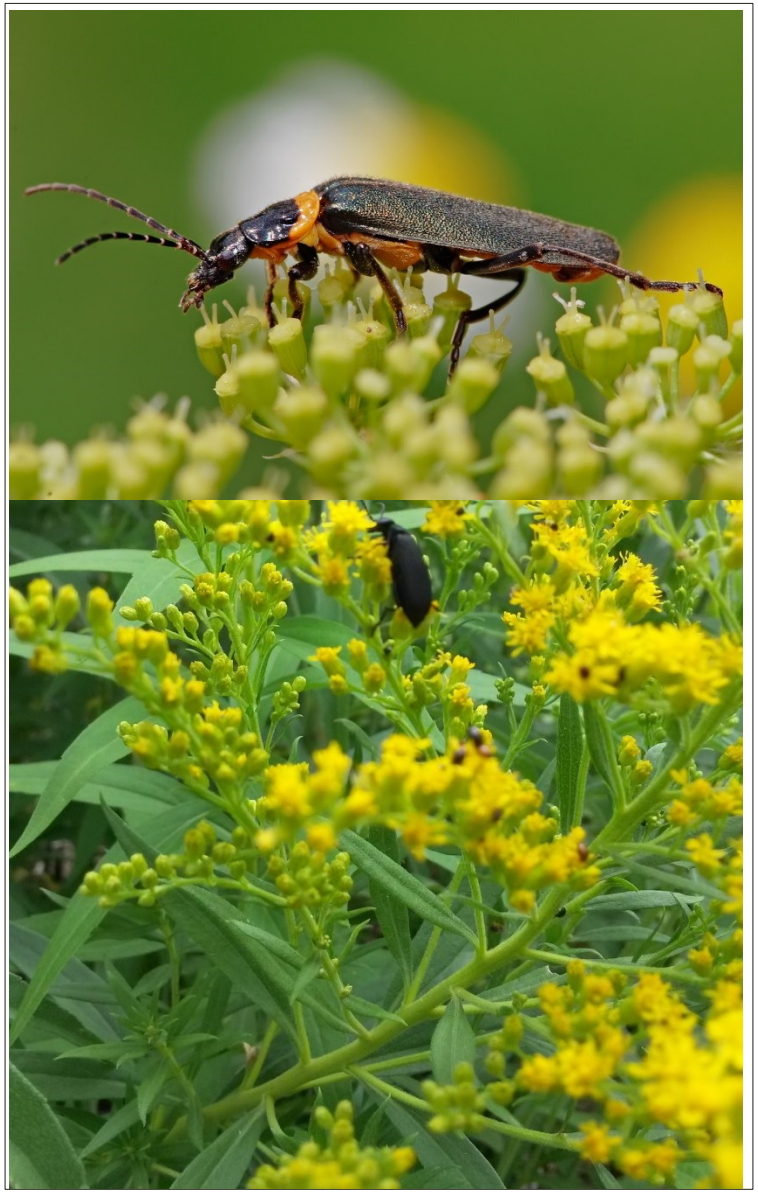
- Large social colonies
- Overlapping generations
- Division of labor

Native Bees



Flies

- Shorter tongues
- Some attracted by foul odors, dull colors
- Need moist sites for egg-laying



Beetles

- Pollen eaters, chewing mouthparts
- Like to "date and mate"
- Lay eggs in decaying wood

Butterflies and Moths

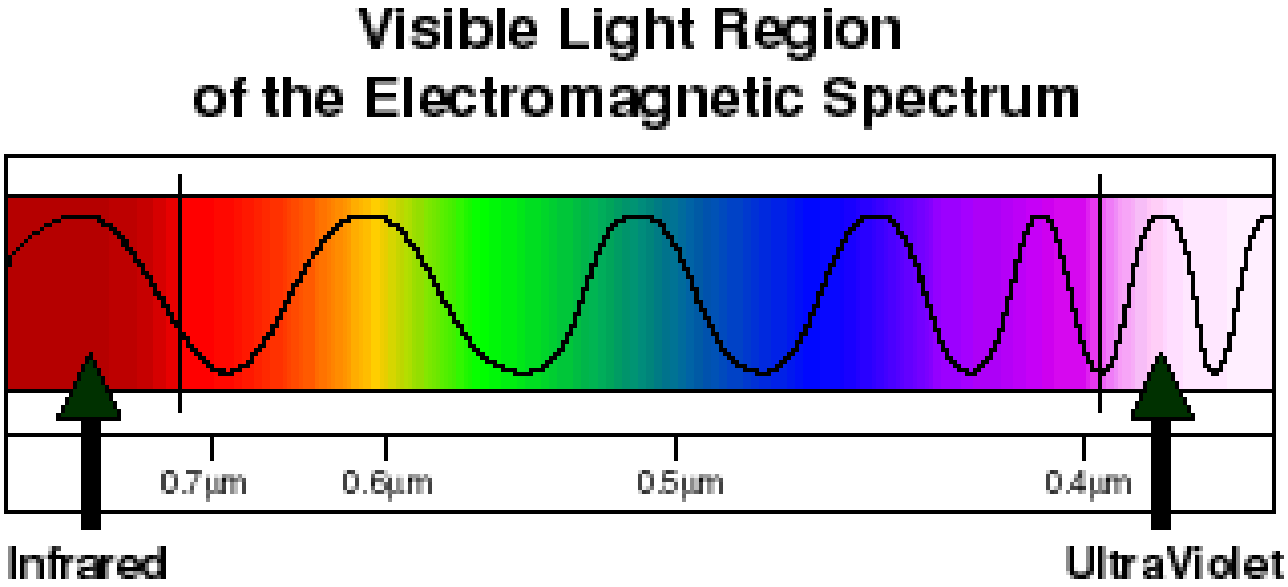
Colorful, fragrant, nectar-rich flowers + host plants

Pale, fragrant flowers (if any) + host plants

Hummingbirds

- Rufous and Broad-tailed are most common here
- Sense of smell less important
- Tubular, red or purple flowers
- Roosting spaces at night

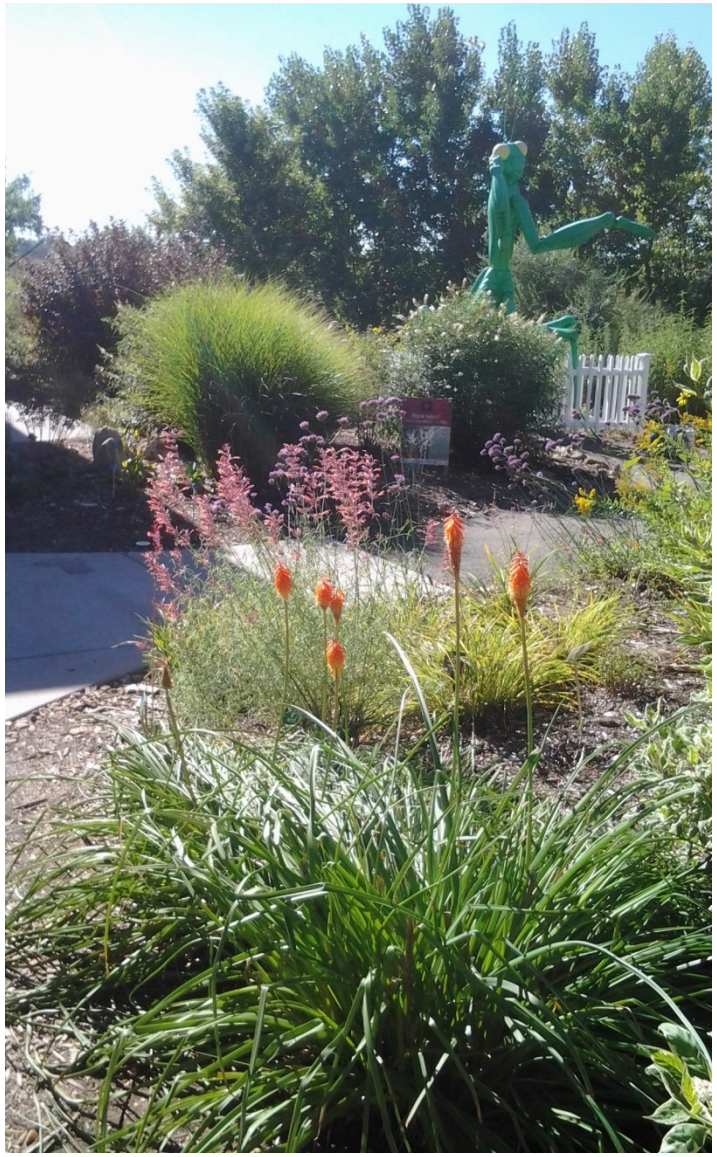
Pollinator Vision



Pollinator Mouthparts

Long and slender

Short and substantial

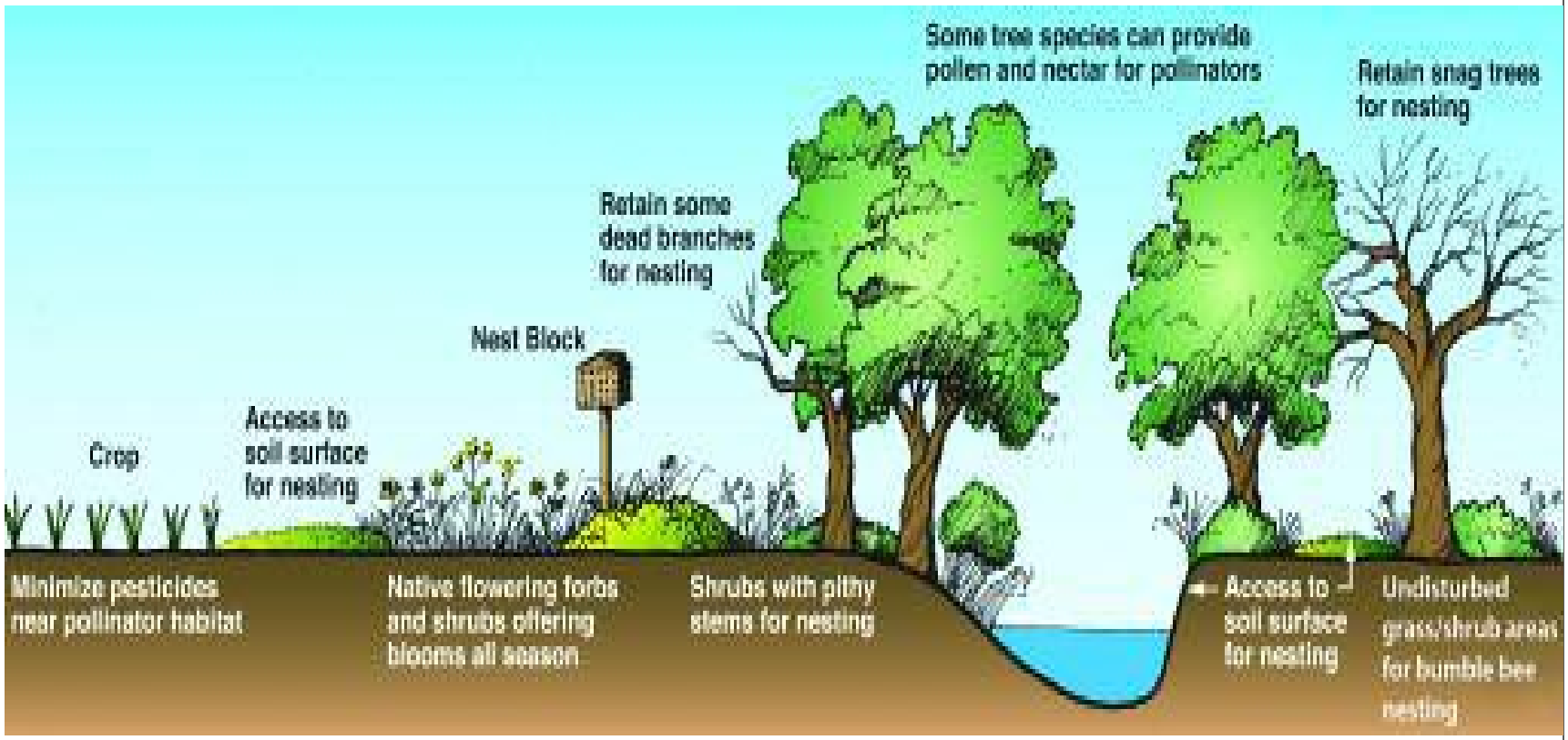


Pollinators need:

- Food
- Water
- Space to raise young
- Protection

Habitat for Pollinators

- Different pollinators have different nesting requirements.



Habitat Design

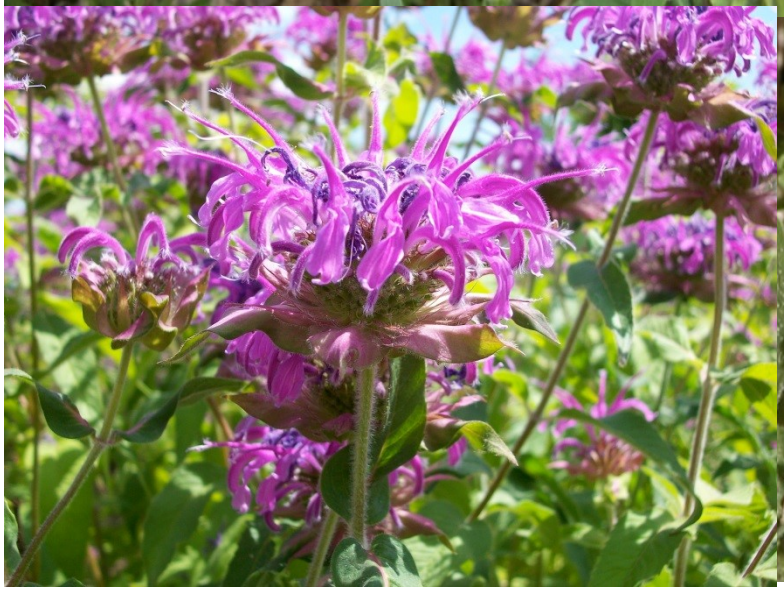
Habitat gardens maximize foraging area, especially near nesting sites.

- Clumps and layers
- Groundcovers and windbreaks

Plant Choice – Diverse and Constant

- Extend your growing season.
- Different sizes, shapes and colors attract different pollinators.

Butterfly PAVILION



Habitat Garden Maintenance

- Avoid pesticides.
- Focus on the important chores.
  - Deadheading!
- Monitor your garden on a regular basis.

Thank You!