

FALL

A guide to protect pollinators
throughout the year



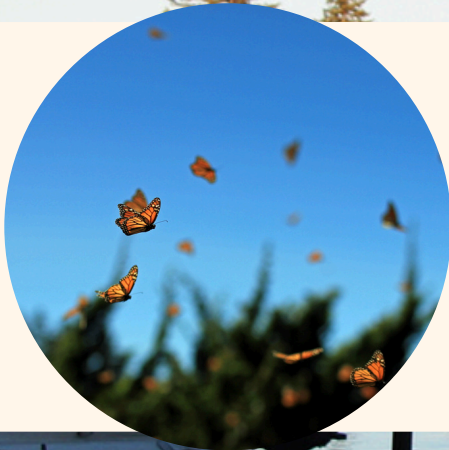
**POLLINATOR
PARTNERSHIP**
C A N A D A

HOW TO HELP POLLINATORS

Fall Edition

Create & protect habitat

Fall is a challenging season for pollinators. Some prepare to migrate, while others collect nectar and pollen to survive the winter. In fall, consider creating habitats that allow species to feed. You can also leave your garden untouched to allow certain species to spend the winter there.



Join the movement

In the fall, don't forget about pollinators! It's thanks to them that you can enjoy your favorite seasonal dishes, such as pumpkin pie. Share the message and join the movement to create a better future for these species. Your school, city, or campus could even join you by becoming a member of the Bee City Canada program.

Celebrate pollinators!

There are plenty of opportunities to celebrate pollinators in the fall. From October 24 to 31, we celebrate bats during Bat Week. It's the perfect opportunity to celebrate these misunderstood pollinators, thanks to whom we can enjoy bananas and even tequila! Halloween is a fantastic time to enjoy delicious chocolate, all thanks to tiny midges.



Learn more at pollinatorpartnership.ca

**POLLINATOR
PARTNERSHIP**
C A N A D A



FOREWORD

Fall, a crucial time for pollinators

We often associate pollinators with spring or summer, but fall is a crucial time for these species. During this period, bees and butterflies must prepare for winter. Species like bumble bees or moths will overwinter in Canada, while other like hummingbirds or the famous Monarch butterfly will undertake a long migration south. This time of year, pollinators need our help more than ever.

The focus of this guide is to find ways to support populations of pollinators during Fall. Pollinators are currently in decline across Canada due to habitat loss, the misuse of pesticides, climate change, parasites and pathogens, as well as the impact of non native and invasive species. By following some or all of the steps in this guide, you help us work towards a better future for pollinators, where they will not only survive, but also thrive.

The **first section** of this guide focuses on habitat creation and management, with some tips on how to provide nesting spaces, and how you can choose the best late-flowering plants that they need during this time of year. The **second section** will cover how to join the movement, by raising awareness for these species during this season, and actively support them. Finally, the **third section** includes fun ways to celebrate different pollinator-focused events like Bat Week, or even Halloween! Useful links can also be found in the **resource section**.

We hope this guide will help those who wish to join the pollinator protection movement to take actions this Fall. Every gesture counts and can have a lasting impact on the pollinator populations that us and ecosystems depend on.

1 Create and Protect Habitat

How to Care for Your Garden during Fall

Pollinators need us during Fall! They need flowers to prepare for the colder months, and spaces to overwinter. Learn how you can support them during these critical times.



Choose late blooming plants. These plants will support pollinators that are preparing for their migration or overwintering.



Leave your garden live. Pollinators use leaves, twigs, rocks, and other garden debris as habitat over the winter. By letting your garden live, you're helping the local wildlife.



Sow Native Seeds. Many native plants require cold temperatures to bloom in the spring. Planting seeds in the fall, before the ground freezes is a great way to allow seeds to live through their typical lifecycles and undergo natural winter dormancy. Sow in fall and enjoy beautiful blooms in the spring and summer!



Fall - Protecting pollinators throughout the year 2



Learn more about
our habitat-focused programs

**POLLINATOR
PARTNERSHIP**
C A N A D A



A Fall Garden

In the fall, your garden plays an important role in the survival of many species. Flowers that bloom in the fall allow pollinators to feed on nectar and pollen before the beginning of winter.

Asters, goldenrod, black-eyed susans or cardinal flowers are just some of the species that support pollinators in autumn. Learn more with our [Ecoregional Planting Guides](#) and create your own list of native plants with our [Find Your Roots](#) tool!

Expert tip: Consider planting a variety of flowering plants that provide pollinators with food from spring through late fall.

2 Join the Movement

©Annelisa Stephan, iNaturalist, (CCO)

Fall is the perfect season to spread the word about protecting pollinators. It's the time when we can watch species depart on their migration, or see the last bumblebees gathering food to build fat reserves for winter. Find out how you can join the movement and help pollinators during the fall.



Observe what's around you

- Many pollinators can be observed during fall such as the beautiful bicolored striped sweat bee (*Agapostemon virescens*). Don't forget to upload your observations on our [iNaturalist page](#)!



Spread the word

- Pollinators are famous during spring and summer, but it's important to remember that we need to help them during fall as well. Spread the word by sharing our posts on [social media](#).



Encourage your community to help pollinators

- Did you know that your city, campus, or school can support pollinators by becoming a [Bee City Canada](#) community? Learn more by visiting our website.



Register your Bee Friendly Garden

- Join a network of over 500 pollinator-friendly gardens by registering your own garden. You'll also get access to exclusive resources for [Bee-Friendly Gardening](#) members.



2 SPOTLIGHT: BEE CITY CANADA



Members of the Bee City Canada program commit to protecting and promoting pollinators through habitat creation and management, community education and engagement, and celebrating pollinators during Pollinator Week (the third week of June).

What is it?

Bee City Canada's mission, as an initiative of Pollinator Partnership Canada, is to recognize and support communities including municipalities, Indigenous communities, campuses, and schools that are taking action to protect and promote pollinators.

91

Bee Cities

22

Bee Campuses

83

Bee Schools



Fall - Protecting pollinators throughout the year 5



Learn more about
Bee City Canada

**POLLINATOR
PARTNERSHIP**
C A N A D A

3 Celebrate

This Fall, we celebrate bats!

Bats sometimes have a bad reputation, but did you know that there are more than 500 species of flowers that depend on them for their survival? Nectar-feeding bats are found on every continent with tropical ecosystems and help pollinate species such as Musaceae (bananas) and paniculate agaves (Agavaceae), which produce sources of fiber and tequila.

From October 24 to 31, we celebrate the incredible diversity and importance of bats during Bat Week!



Nectar bats are long-lived, with lifespans of up to 12 years or more



Bat species in Canada are not pollinators



The head shape and long tongues of nectar bats allows them to delve into flower blossoms and extract both pollen and nectar



Bats are at risk globally because of unwarranted fear and superstition



Bats prefer nocturnal flowers that are fragrant, pale in colour, and open at night

How to Help !

Become a Bat Ambassador

Bats suffer from a bad reputation. Learn more and share how incredible they are!

Turn off the lights! Bats can be negatively impacted by artificial light. Think about turning off unnecessary lights and just observe them safely flying in at night.

Create a welcoming environment. Bats need a welcoming and pesticide-free environment to survive. Think about planting trees or not using pesticides that could negatively affect them.





© Teá Montagna, INaturalist, (CC-BY)



© Nico, INaturalist, (CCO)



Halloween and chocolate

It's Halloween night and you're coming home after going trick-or-treating. You look at what you got and notice that most of your treats contain chocolate. But where does this chocolate come from?

Chocolate derives from the seeds of the cacao tree (*Theobroma cacao* L.). However, the flowers of this tree are so small that only tiny midges can enter them. These tiny midges, mainly from the Ceratopogonidae and Cecidomyiidae families, can access these flowers and transfer pollen from one flower to another. It is thanks to them that we can enjoy our delicious chocolate on Halloween!



Useful links

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP CANADA WEBSITE

<https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/en/>



BEE CITY CANADA

<https://beecitycanada.org/>



BEE FRIENDLY GARDENING

[https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/en/
bfg-canada](https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/en/bfg-canada)



PLAN BEE COMMUNITY SCIENCE PROJECT

[https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/
en/plan-bee](https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/en/plan-bee)



ECOREGIONAL PLANTING GUIDES

[https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/en/
ecoregional-planting-guides](https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/en/ecoregional-planting-guides)



PROJECT WINGSPAN ONTARIO

[https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/
en/project-wingspan-on](https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/en/project-wingspan-on)



POLLINATOR WEEK 2025

[https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/en/
pollinator-week-canada](https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/en/pollinator-week-canada)



Donate

To support pollinator
conservation





POLLINATOR
PARTNERSHIP
C A N A D A