

SPRING

A guide to protect pollinators
throughout the year



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

Spring Edition

Create & protect habitat

Spring is a crucial time for pollinators, as they emerge from hibernation or return from migration. Creating and maintaining even a small garden with a variety of plants can help these hungry pollinators thrive. It's important to choose native plants, minimize the use of insecticides, and leave some nesting spaces for the new generation of pollinators.



Spread awareness

Pollinators suffer from not being known! We can all play our part in raising awareness, but we usually don't know where to start. There are many ways to share your love of pollinators, whether by taking a training course, following webinars, creating a pollinator garden, volunteering, donating, or sharing the message on social media!

Celebrate!

Spring is an ideal time to celebrate pollinators! With events like Earth Day on April 22, World Endangered Species Day on May 16, and World Bee Day on May 20, there are plenty of opportunities to recognize the diversity of pollinator species around the world. You can participate in these events by engaging your community, constructing a bee box, or sharing your appreciation for these important species on social media!



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Learn more at pollinatorpartnership.ca



FOREWORD

Spring, the time of renewal

Spring is just around the corner. Flowers will soon start blooming again, and bumble bees will emerge from overwintering. Life will soon be buzzing around us. However, spring is a crucial time for pollinators, as they are emerging from hibernation, or coming back from their migration. Spring is the time to act to support the new generations of pollinators!

The focus of this guide is to find ways to support populations of pollinators during the spring. 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 plant selection recommendations, and how delaying the tidying of your yard can save many dormant species. The **second section** will cover how to raise awareness for these species during this season, such as registering your garden as an official Bee Friendly Garden, or by following educational webinars. Finally, the **third section** includes fun ways to celebrate different pollinator-focused events like World Bee Day. 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 spring**. Every gesture counts and can have a lasting impact on the pollinator populations that us and ecosystems depend on.

1 Create and Protect Habitat



During spring, many species of bees, hoverflies, and moths will emerge from hibernation, while hummingbirds and some butterfly species come back from migration. In spring, pollinators need immediate sources of pollen and nectar, as well as nesting space. Creating a pollinator garden helps them survive during this transitional period.

How to create a Spring pollinator garden



Plant a wide variety of plants that bloom throughout the year that provide an ongoing food source for pollinators.*



Prioritize native plants as they provide the most benefit to pollinators. Even a small garden makes a difference.



Choose to garden in a pesticide-free way. Avoid pest problems by burying infested plant residues, removing pest habitat, and planting native plants that encourage natural enemies of pests.



Provide nesting spaces for the new generation of pollinators. An old log or a patch of bare soil can support many bee species!

*Check out our [Native Plant Nurseries map](#). A directory of more than 200 native plant nurseries across Canada to help you find native plants, flowers, trees, shrubs and seeds for sale in your area.

CASE STUDY:

Phenological mismatch and the impact of climate change

Climate change is a challenge for many species, but has a disproportionate impact on pollinators and the plants that they feed on. Its effects include warmer temperatures, less snow cover, more frequent droughts, and less predictable frost and flowering times.

Research suggests that the mismatching of flowering time and pollinator visitation leads to decreased pollination and starving pollinators. Phenological mismatch, or a change in the timing of plant and insect life cycles, is a growing concern, and one that can have severe impacts on the ability of pollinators to find food. For example, temperature increases impact the blooming periods of many host plants, and in the case of the Karner blue butterfly, increasingly warmer temperatures are causing its host plant, the wild blue lupine (*Lupinus perennis*), to emerge sooner in the year, leading to a decline in the larval success rate of the Karner blue. Many species in the Arctic are also at risk for the same reason.

How to help:

Choosing to plant at least **three flowering plants that bloom during each season** can help to support pollinators throughout the growing season, from emergence or return from migration in spring, to preparing for winter once more in autumn. Check out our [Ecoregional Planting Guides](#), and the [Find Your Roots tool](#) to help you design the best plant list for your area!



2 Spread the message



Without the actions of pollinators, our agricultural systems and ecosystems would be in serious trouble. While the survival of pollinators is crucial, a lot of people don't know about them. Learn more about these amazing species and their impact on ecosystems, and share it with your community. A beautiful garden can sometimes spark a conversation!

There are many ways to share your love of pollinators, whether by taking a training course, creating a pollinator garden, volunteering, donating, or sharing the message on social media!

How to Promote Pollinator Conservation

- 1- Register your garden as a [Bee Friendly Garden](#), and join a network of gardeners across North America
- 2- Become a [Pollinator Steward](#), and learn more about pollinators
- 3- Share your love of pollinators with your community on [social media](#), and follow us
- 4- Volunteer for the [Project Wingspan Ontario program](#), and help expand habitat for endangered species



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3 Celebrate

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The season of celebrations!

You can celebrate pollinators throughout the spring. April 22, for example, is Earth Day. On this day, the whole world celebrates our beautiful planet and how we can protect it. On May 16, during Endangered Species Day, you can try to learn more about endangered species, such as the monarch butterfly or the rusty-patched bumble bee. Finally, you can also get ready for Pollinator Week, an annual celebration in support of pollinator health that was initiated and is managed by Pollinator Partnership.

Spring is also the time to celebrate **World Bee Day!** Each year, on May 20, people across the world celebrate the crucial role that bees play in our ecosystems. Celebrate this special day by learning more about the **970 species of native bees in Canada.**

A few ways to celebrate World Bee Day

- 1- Share your love of bees by sharing a beautiful **bee photo**, or one of our social media posts with hashtag #WorldBeeDay
- 2- Build your own **Bee House** from materials around your home
- 3- Celebrate with your city, campus or school by becoming a **Bee community**.
- 4- Participate in or support a Bee-Friendly program like **Yellowknife Plan Bee**
- 5- Join the **Bee Blitz Campaign** to help raise funds and awareness for bee conservation



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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)



POLLINATOR STEWARD CERTIFICATION

[https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/en/
pollinator-steward-certification](https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/en/pollinator-steward-certification)



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)



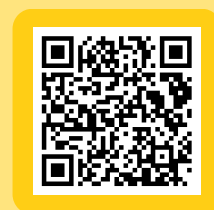
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To support pollinator conservation





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