

# SUMMER

A guide to protect pollinators  
throughout the year



**POLLINATOR  
PARTNERSHIP**  
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HOW TO HELP POLLINATORS

# Summer Edition

## Create & protect habitat

Summer is the ideal time to see pollinators in your garden. So it's the perfect time to create and maintain habitat to help them thrive. During the hot summer months, water your garden wisely, large or small! Besides, there's no such thing as too small a pollinator habitat! You can even create a pollinator garden on your balcony that will attract bees, butterflies or flies!



## Join the movement

Pollinators need to be in the spotlight and joining the movement has never been easier than in summer! Whether it's by volunteering with Project Wingspan Ontario, participating in a Bioblitz, or sharing your love of pollinators on social networks during Pollinator Week (June 16-22), there are a thousand ways to make a difference!

## Celebrate pollinators!

Summer is a special time for pollinator celebrations. June is Pollinator Month! June 16-22 is Pollinator Week, an annual celebration of pollinator health that is managed, and was initiated, by Pollinator Partnership. In addition, July 19-27 is Moth Week. You can participate in these celebrations by educating your community, attending events and monument lightings, or sharing your appreciation for these important species on social media!



Learn more at [pollinatorpartnership.ca](https://pollinatorpartnership.ca)

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## Summer, a pollinator paradise

Summer is when the world around us blooms. Pollinators of all sorts are buzzing about, and plants of all shapes and sizes flourish. Tending to your garden and neighbourhood, adding native plants and ensuring a variety of constant blooms, maintains the habitats needed by our pollinator pals. Summer is the time to celebrate, educate, and support!

The focus of this guide is to find ways to support populations of pollinators during the summer. 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, we will share some tips on how to maintain your garden during the hot summer months, and how you can create your own pollinator garden on your balcony. 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 Pollinator Week. 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 summer. Every gesture counts and can have a lasting impact on the pollinator populations that us and ecosystems depend on.

# 1 Create and Protect Habitat

Summer is the perfect season to observe pollinators. During this time of the year, many flowers bloom, attracting bees, butterflies, and other pollinators that rely on nectar and pollen for their survival. Discover our tips for creating a garden that flourishes during that season!

## How to Care for Your Garden in the Summer

While summer brings a rich diversity of pollinators and flowering plants, it can also bring its share of challenges. Learn how you can protect your pollinator garden during the hottest months of the year!



**Water wisely.** Water deeply and less often during the mornings and at the base of your plants to avoid evaporation and fungal issues.



**Watch your weeds.** Be sure to properly identify your “weeds” before removal. When in doubt, wait it out! Some “weeds” are native plants needed by pollinator pals, which should be protected. Invasive species should be removed according to local guidelines and should not be composted. Consider ditching harmful herbicides in the garden too.



**Shade.** Many native plants thrive in lower light conditions. Choose plants that match the level of shade your garden can provide. Check out our [ecoregional planting guides](#) for some suggestions!



**Rescue rain.** Rain gardens divert stormwater from our drainage systems, helping to reduce flooding and pollution in our waterways. Rain barrels can also divert and store water for use in your garden.

# 1 Create and Protect Habitat



## Container Gardening: Create your own pollinator habitat at home!

Some tips on how to create your balcony garden

- 1- Find out what your place look like (soil, exposure, water, wind, etc.).
- 2- Use big pots that will allow for less water evaporation and nutrient exhaustion.
- 3- Choose native plants as they are adapted to local conditions, can support native pollinators, and require less maintenance.\*
- 4- Create your own native plants list by using our **Find Your Roots** tool!

\*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.

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# CASE STUDY: POLLINATOR SYNDROMES

"Pollinator syndromes" refer to the specific characteristics or traits of flowers that attract particular types of pollinators. These traits can help predict which pollinators will assist in the flower's successful reproduction. Factors such as color, scent, nectar quantity, pollen type, location, and flower structure can influence a pollinator's ability to find a flower and its food resources.

Traits	 Bees	 Butterflies	 Flies	 Beetles	 Moths	 Birds	 Bats
Color	White, yellow or UV	Bright red and purple	Pale, or dark brown, purple	White or green	Pale red, purple, pink or white	Scarlet, orange, red or white	White, green or purple
Nectar Guides	Present	Present	None	None	None	None	None
Odor	Fresh, mild, pleasant	Faint but fresh	Putrid	None to strongly fruity or foul	Strong sweet; emitted at night	None	Strong and musty; emitted at night
Nectar	Usually present	Ample; deeply hidden	Usually absent	Sometimes present	Ample; deeply hidden	Ample; deeply hidden	Abundant; somewhat hidden
Pollen	Limited; often sticky, scented	Limited	Limited	Ample	Limited	Limited	Ample
Flower Shape	Shallow; with landing platform; tubular	Narrow tube with spur; wide landing pad	Shallow; funnellike or complex with trap	Large and bowlshaped	Regular; tubular without a lip	Large, funnel-like; strong perch support	Bowl shaped; closed during day

# 2 Join the Movement

Summer is the best time to observe pollinators. It's during this time of year that you can see the essential role played by these species, as they move from flower to flower. Join the movement this summer, and find out how you can support pollinators!



## Learn More About Pollinators!

One of the biggest threats to pollinators is the fact that they are not really known and appreciated for who they are! Visit the **"Issues" section of our website** to learn more about these important species.



## Spread The Word!

Now that you know more about pollinators, you can share the message around you and even set an example. Whether via social networks, word of mouth or by joining the **BFG network**, you're helping to spread the word!



## Volunteer

Do you want to make a difference? You can give your time by volunteering. **Project Wingspan ON** program is looking for volunteers to collect native seed and create pollinator habitat for endangered pollinators!



## Go Outside!

Summer is pollinator season, so meet them in their natural habitat! By observing them or participating in bioblitz like the **Pollinator Week** bioblitz on INaturalist, you can get to know them better!



## Educate Your Community

Education is one of the keys to imagining a world where pollinators not only survive, but thrive. By joining **Bee City Canada**, and the 180 Bee communities across the country, you're part of that positive change.



# 2 SPOTLIGHT: THE PLAN BEE PROJECT



## What is it?

Since 2021, the Plan Bee Community Science Project has been raising awareness about the importance of northern bees and pollinators, and how to help protect them through community science. We work in Yellowknife, NT, Whitehorse, YU, and now also in Iqaluit, NU recording observations of pollinators and the native plants they frequently visit.



- Yellowknife, NT
- Whitehorse, YU
- Iqaluit, NU

We currently have more than 6,000 pollinator observations included in the project with 221 species identified. Every picture uploaded to our iNaturalist page helps improve our data all while helping us better understand specific plant-pollinator interactions and the diversity of bee species each type of native flower attracts. If you are living in Yukon, Northwest Territories, or Nunavut, and are interested in contributing to our data, click on the button below to learn more about how to get involved!

[Learn More](#)



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# 3 Celebrate

## Summer: Sun, fun, and celebration!

Summer is the perfect time to celebrate. June is Pollinator Month, with Pollinator Week on June 16-22! Celebrate, educate, and act to support our pollinators this summer.

Pollinator Week is a yearly celebration in support of pollinator health that is managed, and was initiated by, Pollinator Partnership. Communities around the world host events during Pollinator Week to increase awareness of our pollinators and how to protect them.

Did you know that Canada hosts over **5,000** different species of moth? We have more moths than butterflies! July 19-27 is Moth Week, a time to celebrate these amazing pollinators. Don't forget to mark your calendar for National Hummingbird Day (Sept. 6) and World Honey Bee Day (Aug. 16) as well!



### A few ways to celebrate this summer:

- 1- Spread the word! Snap a pic, share a fun fact, or use one of our post templates. Be sure to tag [@pollinatorpartnership.ca](https://twitter.com/pollinatorpartnership.ca).
- 2- Attend or host a Pollinator Week event and add it to our [event map](#).
- 3- Join our [Pollinator Week BioBlitz](#) on iNaturalist or make your own at any time--help collect data on the distribution of pollinators across North America!
- 4- Celebrate with your city, campus or school by becoming a [Bee community](#).
- 5- Participate in one of our programs. Become a certified [Pollinator Steward](#), collect native seed for [Project Wingspan](#), or grow a [Bee Friendly Garden!](#)
- 6- Take the [Pollinator Protection Pledge](#) to show your commitment to protecting our pollinators!



# 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>



## PLAN BEE COMMUNITY SCIENCE PROJECT

<https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/en/plan-bee>



## ECOREGIONAL PLANTING GUIDES

<https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/en/ecoregional-planting-guides>



## PROJECT WINGSPAN ONTARIO

<https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/en/project-wingspan-on>



## POLLINATOR WEEK 2025

<https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/en/pollinator-week-canada>



## Donate

To support pollinator conservation



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