

# Bee City USA®

beecityusa.org

Photo by Nancy Adamson

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*Bumble bee on smooth aster*

The Bee City USA® program encourages cities to celebrate pollinators—bees, butterflies, beetles, bats, hummingbirds, moths... While more than 80% of flowering plants and one-third of our foods rely on hundreds of thousands of species of insects and other animals for pollination, many pollinators are imperiled due to disease, parasites, pesticides, and starvation caused by habitat loss. Together we can reverse this trend. Certified Bee City USA communities galvanize neighborhoods, businesses and municipalities for pollinator conservation.

## How You Can Help Pollinators



### Eat Organic Food

The less pesticides used in agriculture, the better for human and pollinator health. Always buy raw honey from a local beekeeper.



### Plant A Variety of Natives

Plants and their pollinators co-evolved in mutually beneficial ways over millions of years.

- Buy locally native flowering plants grown by regional nurseries to support native pollinators. Monarch butterflies, for example, will only lay their eggs on a milkweed plant.
- Help pollinators find flowers by planting in clumps rather than single plants, but offer them a diversity of flower types and colors throughout the landscape. For example, hummingbirds love red flowers that honeybees (a pollinator brought to the Americas from Europe) literally can't see.
- Provide pollinators with food from spring to fall by choosing plants that bloom at different times.
- By removing invasive exotic species, you make room for the natives that were probably once there.

## Use Integrated Pest Management In Your Garden or Landscape

Monocultures invite pests, so diversify plantings as much as possible to encourage beneficial insects. Only use synthetic pesticides as a last resort, and if you do, precisely follow the manufacturers' instructions and treat late in the evening when most pollinators are least active. Avoid plants treated with systemic neonicotinoid insecticides.

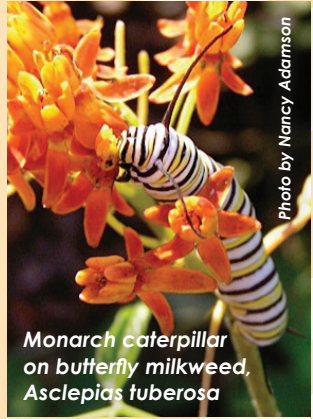


Photo by Nancy Adamson

Monarch caterpillar on butterfly milkweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*

## Convert Lawn to Pollinator-Friendly Plantings

Over time, shrink areas in lawn and expand areas in flowers. Wherever you need lawn, consider growing clover to feed the bees. Clover honey is delicious!

## Invite Pollinators to Nest and Overwinter

Most pollinators are solitary; they don't live in colonies. Offer them a home by leaving small patches of bare ground, undisturbed areas, brush piles, and reedy plants. Make solitary bee nests out of a block of wood or bamboo tubes.



## Know a Candidate for Bee City USA® Certification?

Help us build a movement to turn the tide for pollinators across America. The certification process is explained at [beecityusa.org/become-a-bee-city](http://beecityusa.org/become-a-bee-city).

**For Information About Your Certified Bee City USA Community, Visit:**  
[beecityusa.org/certified-cities](http://beecityusa.org/certified-cities)

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Bumble bee vibrating wings for blueberry flower to release pollen