

# NATIVE PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS & BENEFICIAL INSECTS: Great Lakes



LEFT—Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) nectaring on *Liatris ligulistylis*. RIGHT—Pure green sweat bee (*Augochlora pura*) on *Asclepias tuberosa*.

## Plant Selection

These plants are attractive to a diversity of pollinators, providing pollen and nectar to bees, butterflies, flies, beetles, wasps, and moths. Some plants provide additional resources as caterpillar host plants or nesting sites and nesting materials for above-ground nesting bees. Many support specialist bees that require pollen from specific plants to survive and supplement beneficial insects that can help control pests of ornamental and crop plants. These plants are native to this region—determine if a species is native in your area at [plants.usda.gov](http://plants.usda.gov)—and can be used to create or enhance pollinator habitat across rural and urban landscapes.

When purchasing plants, let your local garden center or nursery know you want plant material free of pesticides that may harm pollinators.

## Resources

- ⇒ Pollinator Conservation Resource Center: [xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center](http://xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center)
- ⇒ Bring Back The Pollinators: [BringBackthePollinators.org](http://BringBackthePollinators.org)
- ⇒ Reducing Pesticide Use & Impacts: [xerces.org/pesticides](http://xerces.org/pesticides)

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	BLOOM	LIFE	FORM	SUN	SOIL	ADDITIONAL DETAILS ①
<i>Agastache scrophulariifolia</i>	Purple giant hyssop	JUL–SEP	P			D–M	
<b><i>Amelanchier laevis</i>★</b>	Allegheny serviceberry	MAR–MAY	P			D–M	
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp milkweed	JUN–AUG	P			M–W	
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common milkweed	JUN–AUG	P			D–M	
<b><i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>★</b>	Butterfly milkweed	JUN–AUG	P			D	
<i>Carex bebbii</i>	Bebb's sedge	MAY–JUN	P			W	
<i>Carex cristatella</i>	Crested sedge	MAY–JUN	P			M–W	
<i>Carex scoparia</i>	Broom sedge	MAY–JUN	P			M–W	
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Fox sedge	APR–MAY	P			M–W	
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey tea	JUN–JUL	P			D–M	
<i>Cirsium discolor</i>	Field thistle	AUG–OCT	B / P			M	
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Lanceleaf tickseed	APR–JUN	P			D–M	

**KEY** LIFE: Annual Biennial Perennial SOIL: Dry Moist Wet ★ Staff favorite FORM: Forb Cactus Grass Sedge Shrub Tree Vine SUN: Full sun Partial sun Full shade ADD'L: Larval host (butterfly, moth) Supports specialist bee Attracts beneficial insects DETAILS: Bumble bee plant Nest site Nest materials Nest thatch Deer resistant

## Native Plants for Pollinators & Beneficial Insects: Great Lakes *continued*

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	BLOOM	LIFE	FORM	SUN	SOIL	ADDITIONAL DETAILS ①
<i>Crataegus</i> spp.	Hawthorn	APR–MAY	P			D–W	
<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	Purple prairie clover	JUL–AUG	P			D–M	
<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	Showy ticktrefoil	JUN–SEP	P			D–M	
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Canada wildrye	JUL–AUG	P			D–M	
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Common boneset	JUL–SEP	P			M–W	
<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	Grass-leaved goldenrod	JUL–SEP	P			M–W	
<b><i>Eutrochium maculatum</i>★</b>	Spotted Joe Pye weed	JUL–SEP	P			W	
<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	Closed bottle gentian	AUG–OCT	P			M	
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Spotted geranium	APR–MAY	P			D–M	
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Common sneezeweed	SEP–NOV	P			M–W	
<i>Helianthus</i> spp.	Sunflower	JUN–SEP	A / P			D–W	
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Smooth oxeye	JUN–AUG	P			D–M	
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Prairie Junegrass	MAY–JUN	P			D	
<b><i>Liatris</i> spp.★</b>	Blazing star	JUL–OCT	P			D–W	
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great blue lobelia	JUL–AUG	P			M–W	
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Wild lupine	APR–JUN	P			D	
<b><i>Monarda fistulosa</i>★</b>	Wild bergamot	JUN–SEP	P			D–M	
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass	JUL–AUG	P			D–W	
<i>Penstemon gracilis</i>	Slender beard tongue	MAY–JUN	P			D–M	
<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	Hairy beardtongue	JUN–JUL	P			D–M	
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Common ninebark	APR–JUN	P			M	
<b><i>Prunus virginiana</i>★</b>	Black chokecherry	APR–MAY	P			D–M	
<b><i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>★</b>	Virginia mountainmint	JUN–AUG	P			M–W	
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Pinnate prairie coneflower	JUN–AUG	P			D–M	
<i>Rosa blanda</i>	Smooth wild rose	MAY–JUN	P			D–M	
<i>Salix humilis</i>	Prairie willow	MAR–MAY	P			D–M	
<b><i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>★</b>	Little bluestem	AUG–SEP	P			D–M	
<b><i>Solidago speciosa</i>★</b>	Showy goldenrod	AUG–SEP	P			D–M	
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indiangrass	JUL–SEP	P			D–W	
<i>Spiraea alba</i>	White meadowsweet	JUL–SEP	P			M–W	
<i>Symphotrichum lateriflorum</i>	Calico aster	AUG–OCT	P			M–W	
<b><i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>★</b>	New England aster	AUG–OCT	P			M–W	
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American basswood	MAY–JUN	P			D–M	
<i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>	Ohio spiderwort	APR–JUN	P			D–W	
<i>Verbena stricta</i>	Hoary verbena	JUN–SEP	A / P			D–M	
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's root	JUN–AUG	P			M–W	
<i>Viburnum</i> spp.	Viburnum	MAY–JUL	P			D–W	
<b><i>Zizia aurea</i>★</b>	Golden Alexanders	APR–JUN	P			D–W	

<b>KEY</b>	<b>LIFE:</b> Annual	<b>SOIL:</b> Dry	★ <b>Staff favorite</b>	<b>FORM:</b> Forb	Sedge	Vine	<b>SUN:</b> Full sun	<b>ADD'L DETAILS:</b> Larval host (butterfly, moth)	Bumblebee plant	Nest materials
	Biennial	Moist		Cactus	Shrub	Partial sun	Supports specialist bee		Nest thatch	
	Perennial	Wet		Grass	Tree	Full shade	Attracts beneficial insects		Nest site	Deer resistant

### Acknowledgments

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We make the commitment to you that we will work every day to protect pollinators and their habitat. Will you support our work?  
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