



XERCES  
SOCIETY  
for  
Invertebrate  
Conservation

# CHECKLIST OF ACTIONS

## To Promote Pollinators In Yards, Gardens & Parks

### KEY:



Promotes foraging resources



Helps protect pollinators from pesticide exposure




















Promotes nesting and overwintering habitat

















Contributes to pollinator conservation in your community









### LANDSCAPING

-   Plant a **native** wildflower garden that includes species that bloom in succession all season long and are high-value to pollinators (species with ★ on Table 1, page 12).
-   Plant **native** bunchgrasses; these plants are food for rare butterflies and also help provide nesting sites for bees.
-  Reduce lawn footprint by converting as much as possible to *flowering* habitat.
-  Plant **spring**-blooming **native** wildflowers, such as woodland ephemerals in shady areas.
-  Plant **spring**-blooming **native** shrubs and trees, such as willows (*Salix*), maples (*Acer*), and native fruit trees and shrubs.
-  Plant **summer**-blooming **native** wildflowers, such as blazing star (*Liatris*), bee balm (*Monarda*), and numerous others.
-  Plant **summer- or fall**-blooming **native** shrubs, such as wild roses (*Rosa*) or meadowsweet (*Spiraea*).
-  Plant **fall**-blooming **native** wildflowers, such as asters (*Symphyotrichum*), native sunflowers (*Helianthus*), and goldenrods (*Solidago*).
-  Plant **native** trees that serve as important host plants for a wide variety of butterflies and moths (species with 🦋 on Table 1, page 12).
-  Plant **native** milkweed (*Asclepias*), violets (*Viola*), pawpaws (*Asimina*), or other regionally appropriate plants that provide critical food for specialist butterflies and moths.
-  Plant species known to provide food for specialist bees in your region (species with 🐝 on Table 1, page 12).
-  Gradually replace perennial and annual landscaping that provides little value to wildlife (e.g., daylilies, hostas, pansies) with more diverse **native** wildflower plantings.
-  If non-native plants are included in landscaping, choose varieties that are known to have value to pollinators (e.g., flowers with ample pollen or nectar) **AND** that are not invasive or aggressive.
-  Remove invasive species from your landscape, as well as any non-native species that appear to be spreading into wild areas (e.g., butterfly-bush).
-  Ensure that new landscaping plants were not treated with neonicotinoids or other related insecticides.












### LAWN & YARD CARE

-    Avoid pesticides (including herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides) on lawns and other landscaping; choose less harmful alternatives such as non-chemical controls.
-   For mowed areas, reduce mowing frequency and increase mowing height, allowing flowering weeds to flourish.
-  Leave dead wood on site, including dead logs, snags, and brush; consider planting flowers around these features, to add intention and aesthetic value.
-  Leave leaf litter on-site—keep a thin layer of leaves on lawn; use the rest to mulch trees/ shrubs/ garden and/or rake to woodland edges if available.
-  Leave bare spots or areas with patchy vegetation in lawn; avoid thick turf and sod.
-  Avoid plastic mulch/ weed barrier, heavy wood chips, and treated wood chips.
-  Leave dead wildflower stems standing over the **winter**; prune them back in **early spring** to 8–12" to create nesting sites for stem-nesting bees.
-  Prune shrubs with pithy stems, to create nesting sites for stem-nesting bees.
-  Leave some areas of lawn unmown to create tall grass habitat.
-  Install a water feature (e.g., bird bath with stones to prevent insects from drowning) for pollinators that need water for nest building or other uses.
-  Seed a “bee lawn” (incorporate clovers & other flowers into new or existing lawn).

### FRUIT & VEGETABLE GARDENS

-   Plant fruit trees and fruit-bearing shrubs, including **native** species when possible (e.g., blueberries [*Vaccinium*], currants and gooseberries [*Ribes*], elderberries [*Sambucus*], chokeberries [*Aronia*])—species with 🌳 on Table 2, page 12).
-   Plant **native** raspberries/ blackberries (*Rubus*); prune in **early spring** to create nest sites for stem-nesting bees.
-  For more continuous fruit and flowers, plant ever-bearing varieties of strawberries (*Fragaria*), raspberries, and other fruits.
-  Plant a tea or herb garden and allow plants like basil (*Ocimum*), mint (*Mentha*), and lavender (*Lavendula*) to flower; most herbs do very well in containers if space is limited (see Table 2, page 12).
-  Plant bee-pollinated vegetables like squash (*Cucurbita*) and tomatoes (*Solanum*) **and** allow pollinator-attractive culinary garden plants—such as lettuce (*Lactuca*) and mustard (*Brassica*)—to bolt in order to provide additional floral resources (see Table 2, page 12).
-  Avoid pesticide use on fruit and vegetable crops; manage pests by using prevention strategies (e.g., crop rotation or selection of resistant varieties) and non-chemical pest control methods (e.g., hand-picking or insectary plantings to promote beneficial insects for natural pest control).

### COMMUNITY ACTION

-   Organize a neighborhood **native** plant or seed exchange (**never** share non-native plants that are aggressive / potentially invasive).
-   Create habitat in community hubs (e.g., libraries, post-offices, schools, or senior centers) or in unused spaces like sidewalk medians.
-   Volunteer with a local park to improve habitat (e.g., removing invasive species or collecting wildflower seeds).
-  Provide signage to explain your pollinator conservation actions to your neighbors.
-  Host a tour of your pollinator friendly yard or garden.
-  Talk about pollinators and their habitat needs to your neighbors, friends, family, local businesses, schools, library, church, etc.
-  Talk to your city officials or local colleges about signing a bee friendly resolution and/or getting certified as a Bee City USA or Bee Campus USA.
-  Participate in a community science project, such as bumble bee or monarch monitoring (see Resources, page 11).

# Xerces Society Recommended High Value Plants for Pollinators

- ★ **POLLINATOR "SUPERFOODS"**—Certain native plants are known to provide exceptional forage for a wide variety of bees and other pollinators, including monarchs. See table below for a list of some of these plants.
- 🐝 **FOOD FOR SPECIALIST BEES**—Many native bees are specialists, only collecting pollen and other resources from specific plants. See table below for a list of plants known to provide food for a number of specialist bees.

- 🦋 **LEPIDOPTERA HOST PLANTS**—The caterpillars of many butterflies and moths can only feed on specific plants. For example, great spangled fritillary larvae only feed on violet leaves. Some plants support an amazing diversity of lepidoptera; e.g., oaks support hundreds of butterflies and moths species. Since most native plants support at least one butterfly or moth, we use 🦋 for a genus supports over five species OR one species that doesn't eat anything else.

NOTE: These lists are not exhaustive—see Resource section to identify additional native plants for your site. Some of these plants may not be appropriate for every region/site.

TABLE 1: SUPERFOODS & HOST PLANTS			
HIGH VALUE PLANTS Appropriate for <i>Most</i> Regions			
Native Wildflowers	🌸 <i>Agastache</i> [giant hyssop]—★	🌻 <i>Helianthus</i> [sunflower]—★🦋🦋	🌿 <i>Salvia</i> [sage]—🦋
	🌸 <i>Asclepias</i> [milkweed]—★🦋	🌿 <i>Lupinus</i> [lupine]—🦋	🌻 <i>Solidago</i> [goldenrod]—★🦋🦋
	🌸 <i>Cirsium</i> [thistle (native)]—★🦋	🌸 <i>Monarda/Monardella</i> [beebalm]—★🦋🦋	🌸 <i>Symphotrichum</i> [aster]—★🦋🦋
	🌸 <i>Echinacea</i> [purple coneflower]—🦋	🌸 <i>Penstemon</i> [beardtongue]—🦋🦋	🌸 <i>Verbena</i> [vervain]—🦋
	🌸 <i>Euthamia</i> [goldentop]—★🦋	🌸 <i>Ratibida</i> [coneflower]—🦋	🌸 <i>Viola</i> [violets]—🦋🦋
Native Shrubs & Trees	🌳 <i>Acer</i> [maple]—★🦋	🌲 <i>Pinus</i> [pine]—🦋	🌳 <i>Rubus</i> [raspberry/blackberry]—★🦋
	🌳 <i>Amelanchier</i> [serviceberry]—★🦋	🌳 <i>Prunus</i> [wild plum]—★🦋🦋	🌳 <i>Salix</i> [willow]—★🦋🦋
	🌳 <i>Amorpha</i> [leadplant/false indigo]—★🦋🦋	🌳 <i>Quercus</i> [oak]—🦋	🌳 <i>Sambucus</i> [elderberry]—🦋
	🌳 <i>Ceanothus</i> [wild lilac]—★🦋🦋	🌳 <i>Rhus</i> [sumac]—🦋	🌳 <i>Spiraea</i> [spirea/meadowsweet]—★🦋
	🌳 <i>Cercis</i> [redbud]—🦋	🌳 <i>Ribes</i> [currant]—★🦋	🌳 <i>Vaccinium</i> [blueberry/cranberry]—★🦋🦋
	🌳 <i>Cornus</i> [dogwood]—🦋🦋	🌳 <i>Rosa</i> [wild rose]—★🦋🦋	🌳 <i>Viburnum</i> [arrowwood/viburnum]—★🦋
Native Grasses	🌾 <i>Andropogon</i> [bluestem]—🦋	🌾 <i>Elymus</i> [wheatgrass, wildrye]—🦋	🌾 <i>Muhlenbergia</i> [muhly]—🦋
	🌾 <i>Bouteloua</i> [grama]—🦋	🌾 <i>Hierochloa</i> [sweetgrass]	🌾 <i>Schizachyrium</i> [little bluestem]—🦋
	🌾 <i>Carex</i> [sedges]—🦋	🌾 <i>Koeleria</i> [Junegrass]—🦋	🌾 <i>Sporobolus</i> [dropseed]—🦋
HIGH VALUE PLANTS for <i>Specific</i> Regions			
Pacific Northwest	Great Plains & Intermountain West	Great Lakes & Northeast	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🌳 <i>Baccharis</i> [coyotebrush]—★🦋</li> <li>🌳 <i>Berberis</i> [barberry]—★🦋🦋</li> <li>🌳 <i>Clarkia</i> [clarkia]—★🦋🦋</li> <li>🌳 <i>Cleome</i> [bee plant]—★🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Fragaria</i> [strawberry]—🦋🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Grindelia</i> [gumweed]—★🦋🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Helenium</i> [sneezeweed]—★🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Phacelia</i> [phacelia]—★🦋🦋</li> <li>🌳 <i>Rhamnus</i> [buckthorn]—🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Sidalcea</i> [checkerbloom]—★🦋</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🌸 <i>Callirhoe</i> [poppymallow]—🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Dalea</i> [prairie clover]—★🦋</li> <li>🌳 <i>Ericameria</i> [goldenbush, rabbitbrush]—★🦋</li> <li>🌳 <i>Eriogonum</i> [wild buckwheat]—🦋🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Geranium</i> [wild geranium]—🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Heterotheca</i> [false goldenaster]—★🦋🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Machaeranthera</i> [tansyaster]—★🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Oenothera</i> [evening primrose]—🦋🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Sphaeralcea</i> [globemallow]—★🦋🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Vernonia</i> [ironweed]—★🦋🦋</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🌳 <i>Cephalanthus</i> [buttonbush]—★</li> <li>🌸 <i>Dalea</i> [prairie clover]—★🦋</li> <li>🌳 <i>Eutrochium</i> [joe pye weed]—★🦋</li> <li>🌳 <i>Ilex</i> [holly]—★🦋🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Liatris</i> [blazing star]—★🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Packera</i> [ragwort]—🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Pycnanthemum</i> [mountain mint]—★</li> <li>🌸 <i>Silphium</i> [cup plant]—★🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Zizia</i> [Alexanders, zizia]—★🦋</li> <li>🌳 <i>Carya</i> [hickory]—🦋</li> </ul>	
Southwest & California	Midwest & South Central	Southeast & Mid-Atlantic	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🌳 <i>Arctostaphylos</i> [manzanita]—★🦋🦋</li> <li>🌳 <i>Baccharis</i> [coyotebrush]—★🦋</li> <li>🌳 <i>Berberis</i> [barberry]—★🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Bidens</i> [beggarticks]—★🦋</li> <li>🌳 <i>Eriogonum</i> [wild buckwheat]—🦋🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Grindelia</i> [gumweed]—★🦋🦋</li> <li>🌳 <i>Larrea</i> [creosote bush]—★🦋🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Monardella</i> [monardella]—★🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Phacelia</i> [phacelia]—★🦋🦋</li> <li>🌿 <i>Salvia</i> [sage]—🦋</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🌸 <i>Boltonia</i> [doll's daisy/false aster]—★🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Chamaecrista</i> [partridge pea]—🦋🦋</li> <li>🌳 <i>Eutrochium</i> [joe pye weed]—★🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Helenium</i> [sneezeweed]—★🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Liatris</i> [blazing star]—★🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Pycnanthemum</i> [mountain mint]—★</li> <li>🌸 <i>Silphium</i> [cup plant]—★🦋</li> <li>🌳 <i>Tillia</i> [basswood]—🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Verbena</i> [wingstem]—★🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Zizia</i> [Alexanders, zizia]—★🦋</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🌸 <i>Baptisia</i> [wild indigo]—🦋🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Coreopsis</i> [tickseed]—🦋🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Desmodium</i> [tick-trefoil]—🦋</li> <li>🌳 <i>Eutrochium</i> [joe pye weed]—★🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Gaillardia</i> [blanketflower]—🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Helenium</i> [sneezeweed]—★🦋</li> <li>🌳 <i>Hibiscus</i> [rosemallow]—🦋🦋</li> <li>🌳 <i>Ilex</i> [holly]—★🦋🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Liatris</i> [blazing star]—★🦋</li> <li>🌸 <i>Vernonia</i> [ironweed]—★🦋🦋</li> </ul>	
GROWTH FORMS: Wildflower/Forb (🌸) Shrub/Tree (🌳) Grass/Sedge (🌾)			

TABLE 2: EDIBLE LANDSCAPING PLANTS WITH VALUE TO POLLINATORS		
🌸 <i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> [okra]	🌸 <i>Cucumis</i> [cucumber, melon]	🌸 <i>Origanum vulgare</i> * [oregano]
🌸 <i>Allium</i> *† [chives, garlic, leek, onions, shallot]	🌸 <i>Cucurbita</i> * [pumpkin, squash]	🌸 <i>Passiflora</i> * [passionfruit]
🌸 <i>Amelanchier</i> * [juneberry, serviceberry]	🌳 <i>Diospyros virginiana</i> * [common persimmon]	🌳 <i>Persea americana</i> [avocado]
🌳 <i>Asimina</i> * [pawpaws]	🌸 <i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i> * [buckwheat]	🌸 <i>Phaseolus</i> * [bean (common, scarlet runner, wild)]
🌸 <i>Anethum graveolens</i> * [dill]	🌸 <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> * [fennel]	🌳 <i>Prunus</i> * [almond, apricot, cherry, peach, plum]
🌸 <i>Brassica</i> * [broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale]	🌸 <i>Fragaria</i> * [strawberry]	🌳 <i>Pyrus</i> [pear]
🌸 <i>Calendula</i> [calendula]	🌸 <i>Helianthus annuus</i> * [sunflower]	🌳 <i>Ribes</i> * [currant (black, golden, red)]
🌸 <i>Capsicum</i> * [peppers (bell/chili, habanero)]	🌳 <i>Lavandula</i> [lavender]	🌳 <i>Rosa</i> * [rose (dogrose, hybrid tea, wild)]
🌳 <i>Castanea</i> * [chestnut, chinquapin]	🌳 <i>Malus</i> * [apple, crab apple]	🌳 <i>Rubus</i> * [blackberry, raspberry]
🌸 <i>Citrullus</i> [pine melon, watermelon]	🌸 <i>Matricaria</i> * [chamomile]	🌳 <i>Sambucus</i> * [elderberry (black, blue, red)]
🌸 <i>Citrus</i> [lemon, lime, tangerine]	🌸 <i>Mentha</i> *† [mint]	🌸 <i>Solanum</i> * [eggplant, potato, tomato]
🌸 <i>Coriandrum sativum</i> * [coriander/cilantro]	🌸 <i>Ocimum</i> * [basil]	🌳 <i>Vaccinium</i> * [blueberry, cranberry]
🌳 <i>Corylus</i> * [hazelnut]	🌳 <i>Opuntia</i> * [prickly pear]	🌸 <i>Vicia</i> * [fava bean, vetch]
NOTES: *Must be allowed to bolt/flower †Some or all members of the genus are NATIVE to North America		