

Attracting Pollinators To Your Backyard



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The National Academy of Science estimates 75% of flowering plants on Earth rely on some degree to pollinators, 1/3 of our food and a greater percentage for wildlife forage.

Attributed to Albert Einstein:

Four years after the last honey bee dies, humans will disappear.

Why should you care?

One out of every three bites of food we eat requires cross pollination by a pollinator.

List of common food needing pollinators:

Stone fruit, citrus, nuts, cole crops, squash, eggplant, peppers, berries, herbs, oil crops and livestock feed.

Biology of Pollination

Self Pollination: movement of pollen on same plant, usually wind blown, large amounts of pollen required, smaller size pollen grain.

Cross Pollination: movement of pollen by pollinator from plant to plant, lesser amount of pollen required, larger size pollen grain, some plants have genes that prevent self pollination.

Most Common Pollinators

- Bees and wasps
- Flies
- Butterflies and moths
- Beetles



Threats to Pollinators

- Loss of habitat
- Introduction of non-native organisms
- Climate change
- Pesticides
- Diseases
- Genetically modified organisms

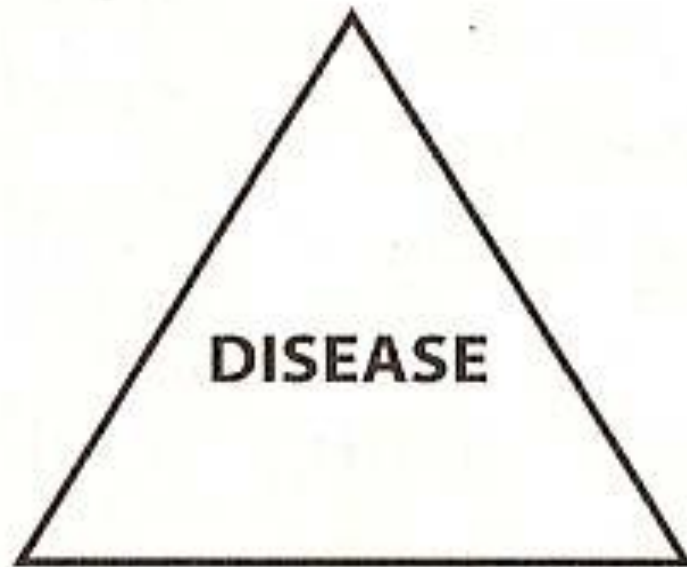
What you can do

- Learn to recognize habitat
- Maintain & enhance existing habitat
- “critical mass”
- Benign neglect
- Practice IPM

Integrated Pest Management “IPM”

The object of IPM is to use the least toxic method to control pests.

Suseptible host



Pathogen
(causal agent)

Favorable
environment

Planting Tips

- Many different types of plants
- Succession of nectar and pollen production
- Color variation
- Variety of blossom shape and depth
- Plant in clumps

Resources & References

The Xerces Society:

Guide to Attracting Native Pollinators

University of California Agriculture and
Natural Resources free publication:

How to Attract and Maintain Pollinators in
Your Garden