Planting for Pollinators

Bee City Hayesville The "Bee Friendly" Committee is administered by the Clay County Soil and Water Conservation District. It is a non-profit organization. The committee's mission is to perform educational outreach to the community to raise awareness on the importance of pollinators and to create, promote and expand healthy habitats for pollinators. Hayesville has been recognized and designated as a Bee City by the Clay County Commissioners and the Hayesville City Council. Contact us at **beecityhayesville@gmail.com**, Facebook: Bee City Hayesville

Calendar of Events

3/7/2018…Pollinator Gardening by Phyllis Stiles, Director Bee City USA (beecityusa@gmail.com). Join us for the **Friends of Agriculture Breakfast**, March 7th at 7:00 AM, Community Services Bldg. Program and breakfast provided by Clay County Soil and Water Program. 828-389-9764 (linda.j.milt@gmail.com)

5/18-5/20/2018 Gardening for Pollinators- Birds, Bees, Monarchs and More by **Kim Bailey**, John C Campbell Folk School weekend class. www.folkschool.org or 828-837-2775 If you want more information about this pollinator program or plant selection and gardening recommendations; contact **Karen Hurtubise**, Gardening and Nature Studies Resident Artist, John C Campbell Folk School.

6/23/2018 Celebrate **National Pollinator Week** on the square in Hayesville. Saturday from 10-4:00. Nurseries and natural product vendors join with educators, Master Gardener clubs, state and county government programs and numerous organizations to focus on the importance of pollinators.

7/19-22/2018 The Cullowhee Native Plant Conference Gain valuable knowledge from field trips, lectures and workshops about propagating and preserving native plant species. learn@wcu.edu 828-227-7397 Western Carolina University, 138 Cordelia Camp Building, Cullowhee, NC 28723

Value of Pollination

The biological process called pollination, is an ecosystem process that has evolved over millions of years to benefit both flowering plants and pollinators. Pollinators visit flowers for many reasons, including feeding, pollen collection, and warmth. When pollinators visit flowers, pollen rubs or drops onto their bodies. The pollen is then transferred to another flower or a different part of the same flower as the pollinator moves from one location to the next. This process is a vital stage in the life cycle of all flowering plants and is necessary to start seed and fruit production in flowers. Not only do pollinators provide essential services in nature, they are also necessary for healthy, productive agricultural ecosystems as they ensure the production of full-bodied fruit and fertile seed sets in many crops. Approximately 75 percent of the crop plants grown worldwide for food, fiber, beverages, condiments, spices, and medicines, require active pollination. 1/3 of food we consume is actively pollinated.

Recommendations for Attracting the Pollinators

It's time to look at our landscapes differently. Honey bees, moths, butterflies and native bees are in search of supportive habitat. Insect pollinators are in trouble; their populations are declining. Many landscapes offer very little to support their needs. Lost pollinators can be linked to loss of habitat, diseases, pests, lack of plant diversity and pesticides. **Here are a few ideas to change that.** Create new habitat! Choose plants pollinators love. Plant a variety of flowers that bloom at different times. Choose native plants. Undisturbed areas are ideal for pollinator nesting. Accept some insect damage on plants. Use pesticides only when necessary and follow the label exactly. Use spot treatment rather than broadcast applications. Prevent pesticide drift. Don't use plants treated with systemic insecticides. Leave some areas wild – don't clear off every inch of fence, waterway or tree line. Let it be.

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Winter is the perfect time to be planning for the blooming season. It is important to consider the year round blooming season. To get started, make a list of **spring bloomers**: early, midseason and late, **summer bloomers**: early, midseason and late, and **fall bloomers**. Early spring (March and April) is an optimum time to be planting these plants. To get you started we are including tried and true cultivars for each season from Debbie Roos*, www.Carolinapollinatorgarden.org

Spring: (early) Virginia spiderwort, foxglove beardtongue, and wild indigo, (mid) Golden Alexander, (late) purple coneflower, Stokes' aster, lanceleaf, blanketflower and bee balm
Summer: (early) milkweeds, New Jersey tea, buttonbush (mid) St. John's Wort, blazing star, Culver's root (mid-late) rattlesnake master, mountain mint, blue vervain (late) great blue lobelia
Fall: spotted horsemint, asters, climbing aster, Joe-pye-weed, boneset, goldenrod, ironweed

Note: It is important to do your homework before planting. Understanding your plants' needs for light, soil and moisture are important for a successful garden.

Tony Ward**also recommends southern bush-honeysuckle, spicebush, elderberry and false indigobush.

Plants for Sale - buy local-

Native Choice nursery, Tony Ward** 828-557-5241, (Murphy)
SeedWorthy Heritage Seeds at 828-557-9464 seedworthy@gmail.com (Hayesville)
Lewis Nursery thelewisnursery@gmail.com or 828-389-8282 (Hayesville)
English Country Gardens Michael Clark, Proven Winner Certified stock, (Hiawassee) 706-896-8947

Credits

Phyllis Stiles, Director Bee City USA, Bee City USA.org, beecityusa@gmail.com
Linda Milt, Bee City Hayesville, Clay County Soil and Water Conservation District at 828-389-9764.
Debbie Roos*, Sustainable Agricultural Agent, NC Cooperative Extension, Chatham County, NC.
Douglas Tallamy, author, **Bringing Nature Home**

Resources

Pollinator.org promoting the health of pollinators and ecosystems
American Meadows – seeds, perennial plants, flower bulbs, vegetable seeds and wild flower mixtures.
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation – a huge pollinator conservation resource