Urban Bee Lab



Illustration by:
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Planting a Native Pollinator Garden

What is a Pollinator Garden?

A pollinator garden is a space where the health and prosperity of pollinators is prioritized. This means planting a variety of native trees, shrubs, and flowers, providing pollinators with nesting options, a water source, and a space free from pesticides.

Why are Pollinator Gardens Important?

Pollinators are in decline, and the major contributing factors include the loss of habitat and use of pesticides. Commercial agricultural practices, expansion of the suburbs, and increasing urbanization all take green spaces and convert them to monoculture fields of crops, manicured lawns, parking lots, buildings, etc – all spaces that are not supportive or healthy for pollinators. Additionally, as honey bees and native bees coexist in ecosystems, they will compete with each other for resources. We want to provide all pollinators with an abundance of resources, so that they all can thrive – rather than limit the number of competitors, let's make sure there's enough of what they're competing over to go around!

How to get started:

1. Your pollinator garden can be any size! From a window box to balcony pots or a large meadow!
2. Visit your local garden center and ask for native seeds for your growing region or order them online. Studies have shown that pollinators prefer native plants over non-native ones.
3. Avoid any invasive or non-native plants.
4. Provide a water source for your pollinator garden. A shallow dish filled with corks is a great water source in a pollinator garden.
5. Consider sowing seeds in the late fall! Most native seeds need "cold, moist stratification". That just means winter...OR a winter-like experience.
6. We would love to see your pollinator gardens, please tag us on social media: @urbanbeelab