



Resources for Supporting Pollinators

What is a pollinator pathway?

Public and private pesticide-free corridors of native plants that provide nutrition and habitat for pollinating insects and birds. *Even the smallest green spaces, like flower boxes and curb strips, can be part of a pathway.*

Source: pollinator-pathway.org

Why do pollinators matter?

Pollinators such as bees, flies, butterflies, moths, bats, and birds play a vital role in upholding and enhancing the well-being of society. Crops pollinated by insects include many of our fruits (apples, pears, cherries, strawberries, raspberries), fruiting vegetables (squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers), nuts (almonds) and sources of oils (sunflowers, canola). According to the [US Forest Service](http://USForestService.gov), over 1,000 of the plants we harvest and depend on for food, beverages, fibers and medicines require pollination. In the United States alone, bees and other pollinating insects produce \$10 billion worth of food products every year.

In addition to their value to human food security and the agricultural sector, pollinating animals play a critical role in maintaining ecosystems. In our region, about 75% of all flowering plants are pollinated by insects or other animals. Birds and other wild animals feed directly on caterpillars and other insects and also feed on fruits and seeds that are the products of pollination. The increasing use of herbicides in agriculture has decreased the floral resources available to pollinators, and the pesticides highly toxic to bees are another threat. In addition, honeybees and other pollinators suffer from the global spread of parasites and diseases. These factors have led to local extinctions of pollinator species. Creating pollinator habitat free from pesticides helps to counter these threats.

Want to Join the Pollinator Pathway?

- [Rethink your lawn](#)
- [Plant natives](#)
- [Remove invasives](#)
- [Avoid pesticides](#)

Source: pollinator-pathway.org

Learn More:

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- [The Last Green Valley: Protecting Pollinators](#)
- [Pollinator Plants—Northeast Region](#)
- [Selecting Plants for Pollinators – Eastern Broadleaf Forest](#)
- [Native Plant Lists for Pollinators – Pollinator Pathway](#)
- [The Xerces Society Pollinator Protection Pledge](#)
- [Lawn Mowing and Bee Diversity](#)
- [US Fish and Wildlife Service: Pollinator Outreach and Education Materials](#)
- [Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection: Pollinators in Connecticut](#)
- [Pollinator Information – Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station](#)
- [The Xerces Society: Reducing Pesticide Use and Impacts](#)
- [Pollinator Conservation Resources: Northeast Region](#)
- [NOFA Organic Land Care](#)

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- [The Last Green Valley](#)
- [The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation](#)
- [Pollinator Pathway](#)
- [Bee City USA](#)
- [CT Bees](#)
- [Connecticut Audubon Society](#)
- [The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station](#)
- [Connecticut Butterfly Association](#)

Source: sustainablect.org

