



HOW TO BE ON THE POLLINATOR PATHWAY FAQ

What do I have to do?

It's easy! Pollinators need pesticide-free plants, native to this region: trees, shrubs, and flowers. Maybe you already have one or more natives. If not:

- Add NJ native plants to your yard (or even a flowerpot counts!)
- Avoid pesticides, even organics which can smother eggs
- Remove invasive plants: <https://www.invasive.org/maweeds.cfm>
- Rethink your lawn: <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/rethink-your-lawn/>

Is that all?

NO, SPREAD THE WORD! Please, order a sign: <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/sign>! Also, you don't have to register your property on the Pollinator Pathway but it helps inspire others if you do. You can do that here: (<https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/join-us>)

Is there anything else I need to know about pollinators?

YES! Many pollinators hibernate right in your yard under the leaves, so **leave the leaves** on your planting beds **until it's consistently in the 50's at night**. Many pollinators live or lay eggs in old wood or stalks from spent flowers, so if you tidy up too much you're taking away valuable habitat!

Turn out your outdoor lights at night or replace with motion detectors. Pollinating moths fly to the lie where predator insects wait and have a feeding frenzy.

Also, pollinators include insects of all sizes and shapes, like moths and native bees that don't sting. Don't panic if you see lots of insects near your flowers—that's success! And some native-loving insects eat the bugs that are pests, so the more natives you plant, the fewer true pests you'll have.

I don't know anything about natives. How do I know what to plant?

Go to:

Jersey-Friendly Yards: <https://www.jerseyyards.org/>

Join the:

Native Plant Society of NJ—there are many free webinars: <https://npsnj.org/>

For ideas re: container gardens and small spaces, check out *Native Gardens for the Small Yard* by Kate Brandes: https://lgnc.org/pdfdocs/brandes_book.pdf

A great book: *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Back Yard* by Doug Tallamy

Where can I buy native plants?

- Metropolitan Farms, Closter, NJ
- Pineland Direct (mail order): <https://www.pinelandsdirect.com/>
- Prairie Nursery (mail order): www.prairienursery.com

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- Wild Ridge Nursery: (buy online and schedule pick-up OR mail order), Alpha, PA

IMPORTANT: make sure the Latin name is exactly the same. Avoid cultivars (which often have a second name next to the Latin) and hybrids because many of them are not recognized or useful to pollinators!

PESTICIDES

How do I manage without pesticides? What about mosquitos?

Safe for adult butterflies and bees” does not mean it’s safe for eggs, caterpillars or reproductive functioning! This includes organic mosquito sprays.

- Check out your garden chemicals: <https://www.beyondpesticides.org/resources/garden-pesticides>
- Beware of any product that says it has a systemic effect: fungicides, sprays, etc.
- Before buying seeds or plants, ask if they’ve been treated with systemic products.
- **Pesticide-free mosquito management:**
 - a. Make a mosquito trap: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqcDZDNtP-0>
 - b. Remove sources for laying eggs: standing water!
 - c. Use mosquito dunks (found online and in hardware stores)
 - d. Use a fan! Mosquitos are poor flyers in a breeze



Ridgewood Pollinator Pathway

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