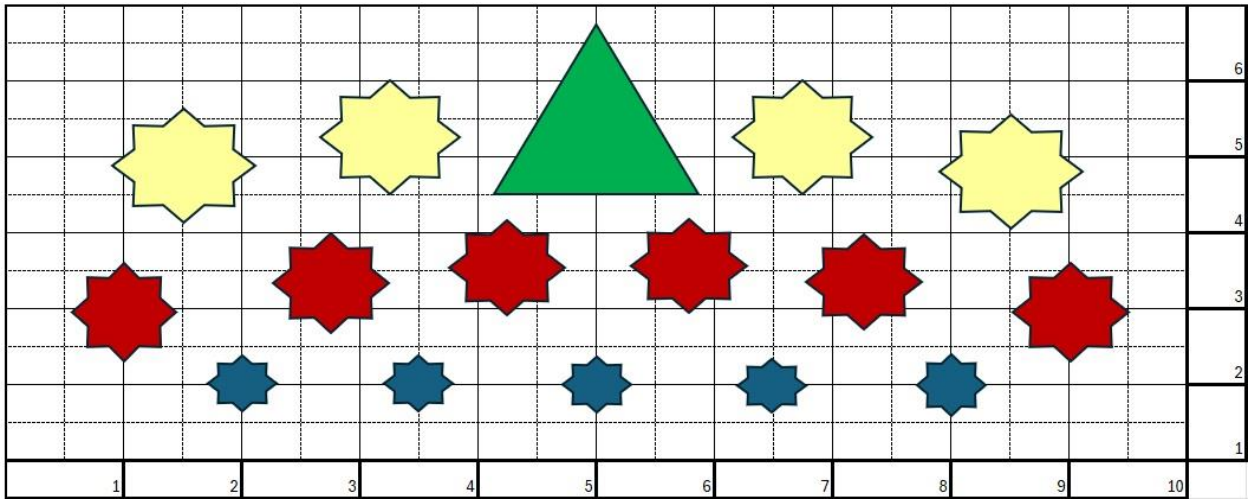
Native Plant Pollinator Garden Design

Overview

Building a pollinator garden using native plants creates a self-sustaining environment that supports resident and migrating hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees, through the seasons. Pollinators are critical for the reproduction of many plants and crops and depend on native plants as nectar sources. Once established, native plants require less maintenance than non-native species because they are better suited to the soil and climate. Native plant pollinator gardens can provide much needed stopovers for migrating hummingbirds and butterflies. The following is a design of a small native plant pollinator garden that provides a starting point.



Native Plant Garden Design (6' L x 10' W)

How to Implement Your Native Garden Design

1) Choose a 6' x 10' area that receives sun to part shade and has well-drained soil and prepare the site for planting.
2) Plants for the garden are shown as small (blue), medium (red) and large (yellow). The area with the green triangle can be used for a tall or vining plant with a trellis, hummingbird feeder, bird feeder, etc. Plant recommendations are provided within the tables below.
3) The overall grid is based on 1' square. The hashed lines in the diagram are at 6" intervals. Plant spacing can be adjusted based on the plants that were selected and recommended spacing requirements.

Small Plants – Blue in garden design

Plant Name	Picture	Size	Characteristics	Bloom Season	Benefit
Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa)*	Ref 3	1-2 ft	- Sun - Drought tolerant - Perennial / Reseeds	June - August	- Nectar source - Larval host for Monarch butterfly
Downy Phlox (*Phlox Pilosa)*	Ref 3	Up to about 2 feet tall.	- Sun, Part Shade -Drought tolerant - Perennial	Mar - May	- Nectar source
Indian Blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella)*	Ref 1	Up to about 2 feet tall	- Sun, Part shade - Drought tolerant - Annual / Reseeds	Early spring until frost	- Nectar source (Special value for native bees)
Lanceleaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata)*	Ref 1	Up to about 2 feet tall.	- Sun, Part Shade, Shade - Drought tolerant - Perennial	Early spring until frost	- Nectar source (Special value for native bees)
Stokes Aster (*Stokesia laevis)*	Ref 1	Up to about 2 feet tall.	- Sun, Part Shade - Drought tolerant once established - Perennial	May - Sep	- Nectar source

Medium Plants – Red in garden design

Plant Name	Picture	Size	Characteristics	Bloom Season	Benefit
Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta)*	Ref 1	Up to about 3 feet tall.	- Sun - Drought tolerant - Perennial	Jun - Oct	- Nectar source
Blue Mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum)*	Ref 1	1-3 feet tall	- Sun, Part Shade - Drought tolerant - Spreads from root - Perennial	July - Nov	- Nectar source
Common Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)	Ref 2	Up to about 3 feet tall	- Sun, Part Shade - Drought tolerant - Perennial	Late April to early July	- Nectar source (Special value for native bees)
Mealy Blue Sage (*Salvia farinacea*)	Ref 3	Up to 3 feet tall	- Sun - Drought tolerant once established - Perennial	Apr - Oct	- Nectar source (Special value for native bees)
Scarlet Sage (*Salvia coccinea*)	Ref 1	Up to 30 inches tall	- Sun, Part Shade, Shade - Drought tolerant - Perennial	Feb - Oct	- Nectar source

Large Plants – Yellow in garden design

Plant Name	Picture	Size	Characteristics	Bloom Season	Benefit
Bee Balm (*Monarda fistulosa)*	Ref 3	Up to about 5 feet tall.	- Sun , Part Shade - Drought Resistant - Perennial	May - Sep	- Nectar source (Special value for native bees and bumble bees)
Late Boneset (*Eupatorium serotinum*)	Ref 3	Up to about 5 feet tall.	- Sun, Part Shade - Drought Resistant - Perennial	Sep - Nov	- Nectar source (Special value for native bees)
Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea)*	Ref 3	Up to about 4 feet tall	- Sun, Part Shade - Drought tolerant - Perennial	Apr - Sep	- Nectar source (Special value for native bees)
Spotted Beebalm (*Monarda punctata)*	Ref 1	Up to about 3 feet tall, sometimes taller	- Sun - Drought Resistant - Perennial	Jul - Oct	- Nectar source (Special value for native bees, bumble bees and honey bees)
White Gaura (*Oenothera Lindheimeri)*	Ref 1	Up to about 4 feet tall	- Sun - Drought resistant - Perennial	Apr - Oct	- Nectar source

Tall Plants and Vines for trellis – Green in garden design

Common Name	Picture	Size	Characteristics	Bloom Season	Benefit
Maypop / Purple Passionflower (Passiflora incarnata)	Ref 1	Climber, up to about 25 feet long.	- Sun, Part Shade - Drought tolerant once established - Perennial	Mar – Nov	- Nectar source - Larval host for Gulf Fritillary butterfly - Fruit for bird and human consumption
Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens)*	Ref 3	Up to about 6 feet tall	- Sun - Drought tolerant - Salt tolerant - Perennial	Aug - Oct	- Nectar source (Special value for native bees and honey bees)
Stiff Goldenrod (*Oligoneuron rigidum)*	Ref 3	Up to about 5 feet tall	- Sun - Drought tolerant - Perennial	Aug - Oct	- Nectar source (Special value for native bees and honey bees)
Virgin's Bower (*Clematis virginiana)*	Ref 4-	Climbing stems up to 15 – 20 feet long.	- Sun, Part Shade, Shade - Drought resistant - Perennial	Jul - Sep	- Nectar
Yellow Passionflower (Passiflora lutea)	Ref 1	Climbing stems up to about 15 feet long.	- Part Shade - Drought tolerant once established - Perennial	Mar – Oct	- Nectar source - Larval host for Gulf Fritillary butterfly - Fruit for bird consumption

Sources for Native Plants:

The Mississippi Native Plant Society provides a list of sources for native plants. Use the following link to view the list:

https://www.mississippinativeplantsociety.org/native-plant-resources.html

References:

Plant information was provided by Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center website.

Photo References:

Ref 1 – Photograph courtesy of Shirley Gravley
Ref 2 – Photograph courtesy of Charles Ray Newsom, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.
Ref 3 - Photograph courtesy of Stephanie Brundage, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.
Ref 4 - Photograph courtesy of Julie Makin, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

MISSISSIPPI Master Naturalist