IMG Source: jerseyyards.org (Pollinator Garden)

Pollinator Statistics

Pollinators visit 75% of flowering plants," according to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and "3/4 of the world's food source requires pollination." With the success of our food supply and other plants tied to pollination, it stands to reason that we should protect pollinators. The success of pollinators, in large part, is directly linked to our lifestyle, which suggests that we can help protect pollinators by making some adjustments in our behavior. One thing we can do is to protect their homes and food sources.

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN SCIENCES
Cooperative Extension Program

agnr Agriculture and Natural Resources

Prairie View A&M University's Cooperative Extension Program (CEP) Agriculture and Natural Resources (AgNR) unit seeks to empower farmers and ranchers to achieve their goals through education and technical assistance. AgNR aims to ensure a sustainable, profitable, and competitive food and fiber system in the State of Texas by addressing the knowledge gap facing many Texans in areas of crop production and utilization, livestock production, and economics and management for sustainable agriculture.

To learn more about how you can implement an Agriculture and Natural Resources program in your area, contact your local AgNR professional.

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IMG Source: https://livingwithinsects.wordpress.com
(Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly)

Pollinator Gardening

Topics:

- Species to consider
- Pollinator populations
- Plants to use
- Gardening tips and resources
- Creating a home for pollinators
- Impact of gardens on other environments

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Environment Considerations

Why Create Pollinator Gardens?

Pollinators are incredibly useful to humans and our food sources. For our own sake, their habitats must remain intact. Planting gardens that attract pollinators and providing them a permanent home is necessary to increase their populations and keep the environment in balance. Pollinator gardens also add beauty to landscapes, be they farms, yards, or fields.

Pollinator Garden Ecosystem

The program will discuss the types of plants that will attract pollinators and entice them to stay in a garden. We will consider plant preferences of various Pollinators, and explain how available resources such as ponds, fallen logs, native trees, and shrubs impact the life cycle of Pollinators. Resources used by wildlife should be left intact to ensure that the gardens resemble nature as closely as possible, so that wildlife remains healthy and capable of enduring climate, life cycle, and environmental changes and continuing their beneficial work within the pollinator garden.

Pollinator Garden Concepts:

- Pollinator-friendly plants
- Proper habitats for pollinators
- How natural resources enhance the garden
- Incorporating crops into the garden
- Garden plans and planting patterns
- Relationships between pollinators and other organisms

IMG Source: Xerces.org

Pollinators require lots of resources, including nectar, water, and shelter. Pollinator gardens provide these resources, which tend to persuade beneficial animals to stay. The key to success with attracting pollinators is to use all of the natural resources provided.

Program Details

Target Audience: This program would be of interest to people of all ages, particularly those with interest in beneficial wildlife or in creating a pollinator garden.

Program Format: The speaker will present the information on a slide show and facilitate discussion between attendees on different ways to create and maintain a pollinator garden.

Program Objectives: The objectives are to utilize the application of Beneficial Entomology, to create a knowledge base for people to develop pollinator gardens, and, thereby, enhance pollinator populations, which will result in stronger agriculture and natural environments.

References:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Pollinators of Texas. https://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/Documents/R2ES/Monarch_Texas_Pollinator_Fact_Sheet_FINAL.pdf