

Quotes:

“Gardening is a place where you show you believe in tomorrow”

“We need bees. Now they need us.”

Best All-Round Websites for a variety of resources

1. Audubon Society Rocky Mountains chapter: <https://rockies.audubon.org/habitat-hero/resources>
2. Colorado Native Plant Society: <https://conps.org>
3. Xerces Society: www.xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center
 - a. <http://www.xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center/south-central>
 - b. Xerces Society’s Bring Back the Pollinators campaign <https://xerces.org/bring-back-the-pollinators> is based on four principles: grow pollinator-friendly flowers, protect bee nests and butterfly host plants, avoid pesticides, and spread the word. You can participate by taking the Pollinator Protection Pledge and registering your habitat on our nationwide map of pollinator corridors.
4. Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center The Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center has developed a collection of pollinator-friendly native plants as part of their extensive native plant database. Along with this special pollinator plant collection, the Center’s website features image galleries, how-to articles on native plant gardening, and more.
5. Pollinator Partnership: www.pollinator.org A non-profit 501(c)3 organization-- the largest in the world dedicated exclusively to the protection and promotion of pollinators and their ecosystems.
6. The Colorado Gardener: <https://www.coloradogardener.com/>
7. Colorado Beekeepers Association <https://coloradobeekeepers.org/>
8. <https://www.buzzaboutbees.net/>

Webinars on Creating Pollinator-Friendly Gardens

Remember, gardeners can contribute significantly to pollinator conservation efforts by growing native plants in their yards and communities! Growing native plants does not exclude using adapted non-native pollinator plants!

- 1. Native Plants and Pollinators:** by Jim Tolstrup, Director of the High Plains Environmental Center in Loveland, CO. 4:09
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=jim+tolstrup
- 2. By Doug Tallamy: Nature's Best Hope** 1:23:23 and **Why Native Plants:** 4:09
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLn5UCM_tv8&t=235s
- 3. Native Plants for Colorado Pollinators**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2FFIXEbCaM> Join the BeeChicas for a Top 10 Native Plant countdown! 55:43. (My personal favorite! Covers many How to's!)
- 4. Bee Friendly: How We Can Support Pollinators at Home and on Campus** Recorded: 4/19/21. Instructors: Lisa Mason, Arapahoe County Extension and Fred Haberecht, CSU Facilities Management. Class recording: <https://youtu.be/EUINsOKkAh4>
- 5. Gardening for the Birds and the Bees!** - <https://youtu.be/dy-m1YKqfN4> Insects are essential in our gardens and pollinator habitats! Over a million kinds of insects have been identified so far and less than 1% are serious plant pests. All stages of an insect's life are crucial to our food chain and support our natural habitats in many ways. 56:34
- 6. Top 10 Things New Native Gardeners Need to Know**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4caQ9o4Naw> Noted horticulturalist, gardener, and educator Ken Williams shares his gardening wisdom, combining practical tips with insights garnered through long experience. Perfect for beginning and experienced native plant gardeners alike, no matter their location. 1:06:08
- 7. Xeriscape from the Ground Up** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELW-ULRCfh4> Jim Tolstrup, of Loveland's High Plains Environmental Center, guides you through the steps needed to get started converting an area of your yard into a beautiful, water-saving landscape. 1:26:27
- 8. Gardening with Native Plants: Learn From our Mistakes and our Successes**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WgAo-ka-n5A> presented by Xerces Society. Join Xerces biologists as they share some of their gardening pitfalls and the lessons they've learned from them. 1:24:33
- 9. Creating a Pollinator Friendly Landscape**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96LZqWJH_pA presented by Wild Ones Front Range chapter. George Miller guides us through what is required to have a garden that supports pollinators, other insects and birds. 1:14:26
- 10. TED Talks on Pollination**

WHERE TO FIND AND HOW TO GROW NATIVE COLORADO SEEDS AND PLANTS

Seed Sources for Colorado Native Flowers and Grasses

1. Fort Collins Nursery – Fort Collins
2. Western Native Seed –online orders <https://www.westernnativeseed.com/>
3. Pawnee Buttes Seed Inc
4. Arkansas Valley Seed Company
5. Prairie Moon Nursery <https://www.prairiemoon.com>
6. [Bee Happy Native Seed Mix for the South-Central U.S.](#) From [Native American Seed](#) in Junction, Texas, this mix includes a diversity of annual and perennial native wildflowers that provide quality sources of nectar and pollen for pollinators.
7. [Applewood Seed Company](#) – see their [High Plains Native Seed Mix](#)
8. [BBB Seed Company](#)
9. [Botanical Interests](#)

Instructions for how to Grow Wildflowers from Seed

1. **General Instructions:** <https://www.westernnativeseed.com/>
2. **Wildflowers in Colorado;** CSU Extension Factsheet 7.233 <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/wildflowers-in-colorado-7-233/>
3. **How to Grow Wildflower Seeds** by the Gardens on Spring Creek [https://www.fcgov.com/gardens/files/GardenInfo_Wildflower from Seeds_040214.pdf](https://www.fcgov.com/gardens/files/GardenInfo_Wildflower_from_Seeds_040214.pdf)
4. **Wild Ones Front Range germination guide for native plants:** https://fronrange.wildones.org/wp-content/images/sites/105/2021/02/Germination-Guide-for-Native-Seeds_02-15-20.pdf
5. How much seed do you need for large areas? Develop your own pollinator conservation seed mix using Xerces' seed rate calculator www.xerces.org/xerces-seed-mix-calculator
6. **Organic Site Preparation: A Comparative Overview** 4 pages; free www.xerces.org/pollinator-habitat-installation-guides

Some of the Easiest Native Flowers to Start from Seed:

1. Bee Balm – Monarda fistulosa
2. Black-eyed Susan – Rudbeckia hirta
3. Blanket Flower – Gaillardia aristata
4. Blue Flax – Linum lewisii
5. Lupine (Silver Lupine) – Lupinus argenteus
6. Prairie Clover – Dalea purpurea
7. Mexican Hat (Prairie Coneflower) – Ratibida
8. Purple Coneflower – Echinacea augustifolia
9. Rocky Mountain Beeplant – Cleome serrulate
10. Rocky Mountain Columbine – Aquilegia caerulea

Also see list by **Wild Ones Front Range:** <https://fronrange.wildones.org/native-plant-propagation/>

Where to Buy/Swap Native Plants

Pollinator-Safe Plant Shopping Guide for Consumers (to know the plants are not treated)

https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/19-053_Buying%20Bee-Safe%20Nursery%20Plants_4%20pg%20%281%29.pdf

1. Sales:

- a. High Plains Environmental Center – starting April 4, 2022 suburbitat.org
- b. Gardens on Spring Creek – in mid-May
- c. Harlequin’s Garden in Boulder
- d. Colorado Native Plant Society – in the spring
- e. High Country Gardens; spring and fall; online ordering:
<https://www.highcountrygardens.com/>
- f. Colorado State Forest Service Nursery – Fort Collins
- g. Colorado Native Plant Nursery – LaSalle
- h. Most nurseries stock a limited variety of CO native plants
- i. For a complete list, see <https://conps.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/CoNPS-Native-Plant-Vendors-12.pdf>

2. Swaps:

- a. PPAN’s Plant Swap and Giveaway: June 18, 2022 at Fort Collins Xeriscape Garden Party
- b. Friends and neighbors! Make your own informal or neighborhood swap!

Native Soil Recipe for Starting and Growing Colorado Native Plants

Good soil structure with excellent drainage is the key to happy, healthy Colorado native plants. Native plants do not need additional fertilization, though you might add mycorrhizae if starting with sterile soil.

1. Top bed with 4” of Squeegee (smaller than pea gravel but larger than sand) and hand dig it in, or rototill, so that you have 50/50 squeegee/top soil.
2. Then take enough of this mixture to create 70% of your new bed.
3. Add aged compost for 20% of new bed (adds microorganisms)
4. Add WASHED sand (sand that is round in shape) for 10% of new bed (adds drainage)
5. Rototill, Rake, then Plant Seeds.
6. Water daily, or at least 3 times/week until seeds germinate and throughout their establishment.
7. Top with 1” of rock mulch only after plants are established.

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18. [Botanical Interests](#)

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Also see list by **Wild Ones Front Range:** <https://fronrange.wildones.org/native-plant-propagation/>

Find Classes/Events on How to Plant for Pollinators (many free)

1. *The Colorado Gardener* magazine: <https://www.coloradogardener.com/calendar>
2. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/best-practices-for-pollinators-2022-virtual-tickets-232547294217?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=escb>
3. CSU Extension Free Gardening Webinars csuhort.blogspot.com/p/csu-extension-spring-gardening-webinars.html.
 - a. **Garden Insects: Friends and Foes** Recorded: March 26, 2021. Instructor: Lisa Mason, Arapahoe County Extension. Recording: https://youtu.be/-Wrm_khAYk
 - b. **Bee Friendly: How We Can Support Pollinators at Home and on Campus** Recorded: Monday, April 19, 2021. Instructors: Lisa Mason, Arapahoe County Extension and Fred Haberecht, CSU Facilities Management. Class recording: <https://youtu.be/EUINsOKkAh4>
4. Subscribe to PPAN's newsletter for upcoming classes/events or visit PPAN's You Tube channel to stream past classes <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-37MdufldW9kENO1boEH7Q/videos>
5. Subscribe to Wild Ones Front Range newsletter for upcoming classes/events or visit their You Tube channel to stream past classes
6. Gardens on Spring Creek adult classes (pay): fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes
7. Colorado Pollinator Summit
8. Gardens on Spring Creek adult classes (pay): fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes
9. Colorado Pollinator Summit (pay) <https://butterflies.org/copollinatornetwork/>

Full-Color Booklets on How to Create Pollinator Habitat – includes color flower photos and descriptions of native plants; all free online:

1. **Low-Water Native Plants for Colorado Gardens: Prairie and Plains** by the Colorado Native Plant Society Gardening Guide Committee; 2017; 19 pages
<https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/native/Prairie.pdf> or hardcopies @ \$3
<https://conps.org/conps-store/#!form/StorePlantBooks>; **Low-Water Native Plants for Colorado Gardens: Front Range & Foothills**; 23 pages
https://rockies.audubon.org/sites/default/files/static_pages/attachments/nativegarden-front-range-4-11-2016_full.pdf
2. **Promoting Pollinators on Your Place: A Wyoming Guide** by U of Wyoming Extension;
<http://www.uwyo.edu/barnbackyard/files/documents/resources/pollinators/pollinatorguide.pdf>; 2017; 93 pages
3. **Bee Protective Habitat Guide** by Beyond Pesticides; 17 pages
<https://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/pollinators/documents/BEProtectiveHabitatGuide.pdf>
4. **Establishing Pollinator Meadows from Seed** 12 pages
http://www.xerces.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/15-020_02_XercesSoc_Establishing-Pollinator-Meadows-from-Seed_web.pdf

5. **Selecting Plants for Pollinators: A Regional Guide for Farmers, Land Managers, and Gardeners in the Colorado Plateau Semidesert Province**
https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/ColoradoPlateau.rx2_171_017_084319.pdf
6. **CSU Fact Sheet #5.616 Creating Pollinator Habitat**
<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/insects/creating-pollinator-habitat-5-616/>

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14. Top with 1” of rock mulch only after plants are established.

Landscaping Designs (free, online); many Colorado gardening books contain designs

1. Wild Ones Front Range chapter <https://nativegardendesigns.wildones.org/denver-front-range/>
2. Colorado Native Plant Society <https://conps.org/resources/gardening-with-native-plants/>
3. High Country Gardens' Garden in a Box designs: <https://www.highcountrygardens.com/pre-planned-gardens>
4. Audubon Rockies: <https://rockies.audubon.org/habitat-hero/resources/garden-designs>
5. CSU Extension: <https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/native/FrontRange.pdf>, pp. 16 – 18
6. Better Homes and Gardens: <https://www.bhg.com/gardening/plans/easy/five-fab-garden-plans/>

Webinars on Learning to Identify Colorado's Native Bees

1. **BeeChicas: Native Bees** webinar - <https://youtu.be/ybPay4Qxy7w> It's the time of year again when our native bees will emerge from hibernation to search for new nest sites. Find out who will be visiting your nest box this Spring! 49:26
2. **Celebrate Pollinators for National Pollinator Week!** Recorded 6/25/21; Instructor: Lisa Mason and Deryn Davidson. Recording: <https://youtu.be/WzBIO4Sjy9E>
3. <https://www.buzzaboutbees.net/> **Website (not webinar)** Includes many videos; easy to read and very enjoyable.
4. **Pollinators 101** webinar <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJSHX51b7PM&t=6s> by **PPAN**. Learn who some of the most common and not so common buzz and hummers are and which plants are some of their favorites. By the end of this presentation, you'll be able to talk about pollinators like a pro. In addition to planting pollinator habitat in your yard, learning to talk about them so you can engage your neighbors and your community is part of helping pollinators. 34:31

Sign Pollinator Protection Pledges and/or Register Your habitat on a map of pollinator gardens/corridors

1. Xerces Society's [Pollinator Protection Pledge](#)
2. People and Pollinators Action Network <https://www.peopleandpollinators.org/pollinator-pledge>
3. Pollinator Partnership's Million Pollinator Garden Challenge <https://www.pollinator.org/mpgcmmap/register#form>

Become Certified as a Pollinator Protector at Home or in Your Community

1. Home: As a Habitat Hero <https://rockies.audubon.org/habitat-hero/apply>
2. Communities or Land Stewards: **A certification program for land managers, communities, and organizations.** <https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator-steward-certification>

Put Pollinator Signs in Your Yard

1. Become a Habitat Hero: <https://rockies.audubon.org/habitat-hero/apply>
2. Xerces' Bring Back the Pollinators: [pollinator habitat sign](#)
3. Honeybee Haven: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/honey-bee-haven?amount=50>
4. Pollinator Habitat: <https://www.pollinator.org/garden-signs>

Join a Citizen Scientist Pollinator Watch Program

1. **Colorado State University:** <https://beewise.extension.colostate.edu/> BeeWise is a 21st Century Beekeeping program that engages youth in science, technology, engineering and math through project-based art, making and citizen science.
2. **CSU Extension's Native Bee Watch:** <https://agsci.colostate.edu/nativebeewatch/> With pollinator conservation rising to the top of environmental concerns, our purpose is to be a resource for the community, research bee diversity and abundance in urban areas, and provide

the long-term monitoring data. Conservation for bees and pollinators isn't just a job for scientists, but for citizens too!

3. **Colorado Native Plant Society:** <https://conps.org/citizen-science-projects/> CoNPS is partnering with Budburst, a national citizen science project which tracks environmental changes across the country using data on plants.
4. **Xerces Society:** <https://www.xerces.org/community-science> Monarch butterfly tracking: <https://www.monarchmilkweedmapper.org/>
5. **Bumble Bee Watch:** www.bumblebeewatch.org
A citizen science initiative to track all species of North American bumble bees. The website allows users to upload photos, use an interactive identification tool, and submit geo-referenced records of all North American bumble bees. These records will allow scientists to follow the status of these essential pollinators and inform effective conservation actions.

Books for Adults

1. ***Attracting Native Pollinators: Protecting North America's Bees and Butterflies***
Xerces' best-selling book highlights the role of native pollinators in natural ecosystems, gardens, and farms. Introductory sections explore the natural history and habitat needs of bees, butterflies, pollinating beetles, and much more. Advanced sections provide guidance on conserving pollinators in multiple landscapes. The book also includes a first-of-its-kind guide to all common native bee genera of North America. Available in bookstores everywhere, and through www.xerces.org/books.
2. ***Nature's Best Hope***, by Doug Tallamy. Read review here: [Nature's Best Hope Book Review](#)
3. ***Suborbitat*** by Jim Tolstrup, Executive Director of the High Plains Environmental Center
4. [Bees In Your Backyard](#)
5. https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5306468.pdf

Books for Kids

1. ***The Reason for a Flower: A Book about Flowers, Pollen, and Seeds (Explore!)*** by Ruth Heller (ages 5-8)
2. ***Brilliant Bees Puzzle Book Starring Bumble Bees, Honey Bees, Mason Bees, Leafcutter Bees, Mining Bees, Yellow-face Bees, Wool Carder Bees and More!*** by Gumfish Books (ages 7-12)
3. ***The Life and Times Of The Honey Bee*** by Charles Micucci (ages 4-7)
4. ***What if There Were No Bees?*** By Suzanne Buckingham Slade (ages 7-9)

Science Kits for Kids

1. ALEX Toys Scientific Explorer Bee-Ology Science Experiment Kit (6 yrs and up)

Resources For Professionals

Teachers:

1. **Pollinator.org:** Links to many curricula, educational tools and activities many free: <https://www.pollinator.org/learning-center/education>
2. **Xerces Society:** <https://www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/educational-resources>
3. **Mytyo.org:** <https://mytyo.org/pollinator-resources-for-the-teacher-and-outdoor-educator/>

Nurseries:

1. **Guide for how to offer bee-safe plants:** <https://xerces.org/publications/factsheets/offering-bee-safe-plants-guide-for-nurseries>

Farms:

1. **Selecting Plants for Pollinators: A Regional Guide for Farmers, Land Managers, and Gardeners in the Colorado Plateau Semidesert Province**
https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/ColoradoPlateau.rx2_171017_084319.pdf
2. **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** The USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) provide financial and technical assistance to support conservation efforts for pollinators and other wildlife on farms. Conservation programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, and Conservation Reserve Program all provide support for farmers.
<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>
3. **Become a certified Bee Friendly Farm:**
https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/BeeFriendlyFarming_Handbook_UPDATE_10-1-21.pdf

Land Managers:

1. **Selecting Plants for Pollinators: A Regional Guide for Farmers, Land Managers, and Gardeners in the Colorado Plateau Semidesert Province**
https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/ColoradoPlateau.rx2_171017_084319.pdf
2. **Pollinator Friendly Parks: *Enhancing Our Communities by Supporting Native Pollinators in Our Parks and Other Public Spaces*** by Xerces Society; 96 pages; free online document
<https://xerces.org/publications/guidelines/pollinator-friendly-park>
3. **Pollinator Partnership's Habitat Training Workshops:**
<https://www.pollinator.org/wingspan/habitat-training-workshops>

4. **Bee City & Bee Campus USA:** The [Bee City & Bee Campus USA](#) programs endorse a set of commitments for creating sustainable habitats for native pollinators, which are vital to feeding the planet. Learn more how to make your town or campus better for bees today!
5. van Dyke, M., E. Mullen, D. Wixted, and S. McArt. 2019. "A Pesticide Decision-Making Guide to Protect Pollinators in Landscape, Ornamental, and Turf Management." Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
<https://pollinator.cals.cornell.edu/resources/grower-resources>

Food Industry: <https://beebettercertified.org/> The Food Industry's Only Third-Party Verified Pollinator Conservation Eco-Label