Top 10 Pollinator Friendly suggestions

1. Plant a variety of flowers of different colors and shapes that bloom at different times to provides continuous pollen and nectar sources with a special focus on early spring and late fall blooming plants.   *www.beelab.umn.edu*   *www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation*

2. Plant multiple plants of the same kind in 'clusters' for maximum nectar and pollen collection by pollinators, and plant "corridors" of pollinator friendly plants to encourage pollinator movement and to connect habitat areas.
   www.entomology.umn.edu/cues/pollinators/plants

3. Plant non-flowering plants and grasses in 'clusters' to provide nesting and overwintering habitat.

4. Choose native plants that are beneficial to pollinators; choose plants best suited for your growing site; avoid invasive plants and plants treated with systemic insecticides (it can affect the pollen and nectar).   *www.mda.state.mn.us/weedcontrol*   *www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives*

5. Avoid disturbing areas where pollinators are nesting and where possible, leave area around nesting sites clear.

6. Leave dead/downed wood, leaf litter and dead flower/plant stems for overwinter habitat.

7. Create small watering areas. For example: wet wood mulch or bare area of soil or other shallow watering dishes for pollinators.

8. Leave pollinator attractive plants such as dandelions and clover in your lawn for early season nectar and pollen sources. Adjust mowing schedule—timing and frequency—to support our pollinators.

9. Accept some insect damage on your plants and learn to identify and understand pests vs. beneficial insects.   *www.extension.unm.edu/garden/diagnose/insect*

10. Tell your neighbors why you are creating a pollinator friendly landscape and encourage them to join you.   *www.pollinator.org/gardens*

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