



Trial Garden

Here hundreds of perennials are evaluated by our staff and Master Gardener volunteers. To graduate to permanent plantings in the Botanic Garden, these new plants must have improved abilities to survive in the environment. Look for the big bluebonnet that keeps watch over this “live experiment” garden!

Bee A Pollinator!



The relationship between plants and pollinators such as bees, beetles, flies, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, and bats is one of the most vital ecological processes on earth and has a major impact on the health of our environment. The number of native pollinators has declined due to the loss and degradation of habitats, the use of pesticides and herbicides, and invasive plant and insect species. Gardens can provide a safe haven for pollinators - whether a large botanic garden, a small home garden, or your school garden.

Bee Involved!
www.pollinator.org



Divide group into bees, hummingbirds, bats, and butterflies/moths and look for their flower partners.

<p style="text-align: center;">HONEY BEES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ Are insects; they have 6 legs and 2 pairs of wings. _ Visit flowers to obtain nectar and eat pollen. The nectar provides energy for flight and is used to make honey, and pollen provides nutrients for bee larvae. _ Use their mop-like tongue to sop up nectar. _ Use their jaws (mandibles) to eat pollen. _ Collect pollen with their hairy bodies and comb it into baskets on their legs. <p style="text-align: center;">BLUE or YELLOW FLOWERS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ Are insects; they have 6 legs and 2 pairs of wings. _ Have hundreds of overlapping scales on their wings. _ Use a straw-like structure (proboscis) to drink nectar from flowers. _ Are attracted to flowers by color and scent. _ Collect pollen on their bodies when they brush against the flower's anthers, which hold the pollen. <p style="text-align: center;">BUTTERFLIES: BRIGHTLY COLORED FLOWERS MOTHS: PALE COLORS IN THE EVENING</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">HUMMINGBIRDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ Are the smallest of all birds. _ Can fly forwards, backwards and, upside down. _ Have big appetites; they may visit up to 1,000 flowers a day. _ Reach into the flower with their long, narrow beaks and use their long forked tongue to lap up nectar from deep inside the flower. _ Collect pollen on their bill and facial feathers. <p style="text-align: center;">RED OR ORANGE TRUMPET-SHAPED FLOWERS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BATS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ Are mammals; they are covered in fur and feed milk to their babies. _ Are the only mammals that truly fly. _ Visit flowers to feed on the nectar and pollen. _ Feed using very long, narrow tongues designed to reach deep into the flower to sip nectar. _ Have wings that are very similar to the human hand; they even have thumbs! <p style="text-align: center;">LIGHT COLORED FLOWERS- BATS FLY AT NIGHT!</p>