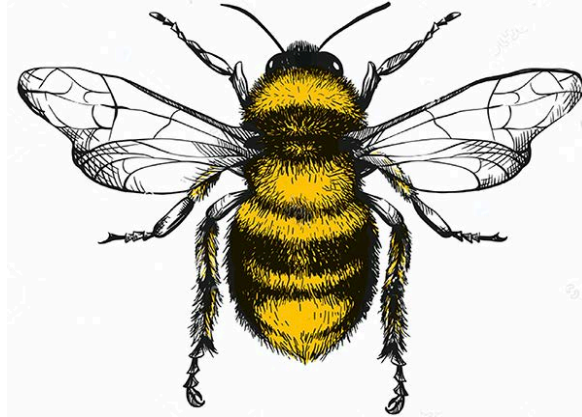




Millerton's Earth Day



NORTH AMERICAN HONEY BEE

North East / Millerton Pollinator Garden



We've all heard that bees are having a hard time. This new garden will give them a helping hand. It measures 20 by 30 feet and will sit just east of the Millerton Post Office, on a lot that includes the offices of Dr. Kristie Schmidt. *Doubleclick the image below for a nine-second video of its location.*

Groundbreaking and Garden Preparation

Please volunteer. No skills necessary. Physical labor required (it's good for you!). We'll be preparing the planting bed these days:

May 9, 16, 23, 30.

Because of Covid-19 restrictions, we'll work only in teams of two, each widely separated. Book by the hour. Try to bring your own tools, gloves, and mask. Some tools may be available on site.

Sign up with Mary Lynn Kalogeras (marylynnk@gmail.com). She'll coordinate dates and times and tell you what you'll be doing, including ♦ remove sod and rocks; ✕ enrich soil; □ plant; ✨ mulch; ≈ water. Ongoing maintenance: ≈ water; ★ weed.

Be a Bee Volunteer!

We'll be using all native plants from local nurseries and gardens.

Be Gentle Around Bees

Bees won't disturb you if you don't disturb them. Though they might think you're a big flower and want to explore you for a second. Move gently and slowly when they are nearby, and you and bees will get along beautifully.

Are You Allergic?

About one in a twenty Americans are quite allergic to the chemicals in a sting from a bee, hornet, or wasp. The remedy is a shot of adrenalin, which they probably carry with them. If not, get them to a hospital, clinic, or doctor *fast*.

Anaphylaxis is dangerous and can be life-threatening.

Contents of the NE /Millerton Community Pollinator Garden



Tree: 1 Eastern Redbud (Cercis canadensis)

Shrubs: 3 Canadian Serviceberries (Amelanchier canadensis)



Vines: 1 Trumpet Vine (Campsis radicans)

Perennials: 5 Eastern whorled milkweeds (Asclepias verticillata)



5 Orange butterflyweeds (Asclepias tuberosa)

3 Showy goldenrods (Solidago speciosa)



5 Blazing stars (Liatris spicata)

5 Eastern beebalms (Monarda fistulosa)



5 New England asters (Symphyotrichum novae-angliae)

5 Purplestem asters (Symphyotrichum puniceus)

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

Native plants mean the best choices of food and shelter will be available for local birds, insects, and other wildlife.

To survive, native birds need native plants and the insects that have co-evolved with them. Most landscaping plants available in nurseries are exotic species from other countries. Many are prized for qualities that make them poor food sources for native birds—like having leaves that are unpalatable to native insects and caterpillars. With 96 percent of all terrestrial bird species in North America feeding insects to their young, planting exotic plants is like serving plastic food. No insects? No birds.

For example, research by entomologist Doug Tallamy has shown that native oaks support more than 550 different species of butterflies and moths alone. The non-native ginkgo tree supports just five. Caterpillars are the go-to food source for migrant and resident birds alike. In the 16 days between hatching and fledging, a clutch of Carolina Chickadee chicks can down more than 9,000 of them.

Tallamy's work points to native landscaping as a key tool in increasing bird diversity and abundance. In a study of suburban properties in southeast Pennsylvania, for example,



eight times more Wood Thrushes, Eastern Towhees, **Veery thrushes** [<https://youtu.be/vtJ14MV64WY>], and Scarlet Tanagers (all species of conservation concern) were found in yards with native plantings compared to yards landscaped with typical alien ornamentals.

What's more, the habitat provided by native plants can help birds adapt and survive amid a changing climate. More than half of North American bird species are threatened by climate change, and native plants can help increase their resilience by giving them food and places to rest and nest.

Consider adding native plants around your place to nourish wildlife, especially birds, bees, other pollinators. They'll make sure nature continues to flourish.

<https://www.audubon.org/news/why-native-plants-are-better-birds-and-people>

WHAT MAKES LIFE CHALLENGING FOR BEES (*us, for one big thing*)

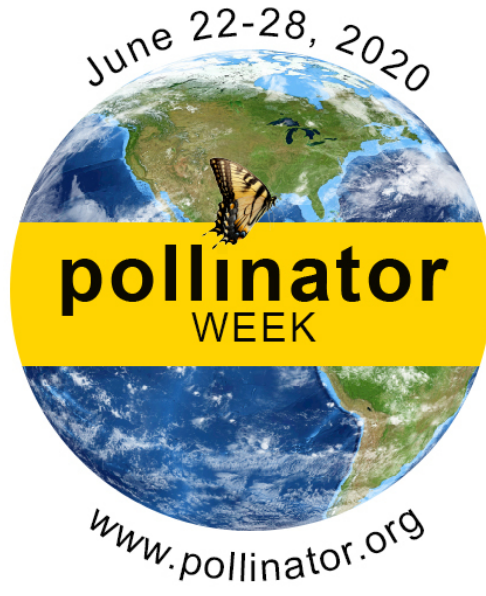


1. It may take many trips for bees to provide enough pollen for just one egg, and therefore, visits to many flowers are necessary. For instance, to provide sufficient pollen for one bee egg, it takes *Osmia lignaria*, the **Blue Orchard Mason bee**, up to 35 trips, with each trip involving 75 flower visits. For some, that's 2,625 flower visits per egg!
2. Most bees are solitary, do not defend a nest, and would only sting if pressed, for example if caught in clothes or between fingers. Honey bees, which form large colonies, often warn before they sting, bumping into what is annoying them with their bodies. Honey bees are more aggressive if you are near their colony.
3. Honey bees do not sting multiple times. They are the only bee species with a barbed stinger. The stinger often gets lodged in skin and rips from the bee's abdomen, causing its death. Other bee species do not have barbed stingers, so the same individual can sting multiple times.
4. All bees do not live in colonies. Honey bees, bumble bees, and some species of sweat bees are "eusocial." That is, they share a nest and workers cooperate to perform duties. However, most other bee species are either solitary or communal.
5. All bees do not make honey. In North America, only honey bees make honey. Other bees, like bumble bees, store nectar but the resulting substance is different from the stored nectar of honey bees.

HOW ELSE CAN WE HELP BEES?

As their habitat disappears, bees have fewer places to build a nest. Here's a simple construction project you can easily do and install around your home. This one is designed for solitary bees: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zaQzJxSheQ>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



<https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week>