



GARDENS AND POLLINATOR HABITATS IN WEST ORANGE COUNTY

- 1 Apopka Wildlife Drive** - This 11 mile drive is a world class birding location of 20,000 acres of restored native marshland on the north side of Lake Apopka.
- 2 Butterfly Garden Park** - Dedicated in 2022, this park on Plant St. in Winter Garden features Flora, a 10' monarch butterfly sculpture by artist Don Reynolds. She is surrounded by a pollinator garden.
- 3 Jessie Brock Recreation Center Park** - This lovely park in the historic district of Winter Garden offers a sidewalk around the lake and features a number of the Winter Garden Heritage rees. Three Pink Trumpet Trees are planted here in honor of PLANT IT PINK.
- 4 Magnolia Park Eco Education Center** - Located on the east side of Lake Apopka, this education center tells the fascinating story of Lake Apopka. There are raised beds at the entrance planted with pollinator plants.
- 5 Nehrling Gardens** - The former home and research gardens of American horticulturist and plant breeder Henry Nehrling.
- 6 Newton Park** - Located on the south shore of Lake Apopka behind Tanner Hall, this tranquil park features many Winter Garden Heritage Trees and is a favorite spot to watch the sunset.
- 7 Oakland Nature Preserve** - 128 acres of restored sandhill Florida habitat on the shore of Lake Apopka in Oakland. The Education Center offers programs and a museum.
- 8 Path of Life Garden at Chapin Station** - This beautiful gem of a garden on the West Orange Trail was designed and installed by the Bloom & Grow Garden Society and is maintained by their members.
- 9 Tibet Butler Preserve** - This 439 acres nature preserve offers access to the many different habitats unique to Central Florida. It is an oasis for wildlife, wildflowers and natural vegetation.
- 10 Tildenville Elementary School** - One of the oldest schools in West Orange County, this elementary school has a beautiful campus that includes a teaching garden, two huge old oak trees and Pink Trumpet Trees planted as part of PLANT IT PINK.
- 11 Tucker Ranch** - With just over 200 acres of old Florida, this former ranch is now a conservation park owned and operated by the City of Winter Garden. The Bloom & Grow Garden Society planted "1000 Trees for 1000 Years" at Tucker Ranch.
- 12 West Orange Trail Pollinator Habitat** - Located on the 22-mile West Orange Trail, The Pollinator Habitat is located at the Tildenville Outpost, 1064 Tildenville School Rd, Winter Garden. The garden, maintained by Bloom and Grow .
- 13 Winter Garden Cemetery** - Established in 1924 as a municipal cemetery, this is a peaceful and well-tended landscape on the southern edge of Winter Garden with beautiful old live oaks and lovely views of the lake. It is a place of peace and solace.
- 14 Winter Garden Heritage Tree Walk** - Starting at City Hall and following the self-guided map to Lake Apopka and back up to the Winter Garden Heritage Museum, this tree walk takes you on a journey through the historic district while visiting over 50 of Winter Gardens most venerable and beautiful trees. Labels on the Heritage trees have a QR code that tells the history of Winter Garden and its people.

Common Central Florida Bees

BUMBLE BEES:

These are large, fuzzy bees known for their loud buzz and ability to travel long distances for nectar. Florida has 5 species of bumble bees, including the Common Eastern Bumble Bee (*Bombus impatiens*). Bumble bees visit a wide variety of plants for nectar and pollen and are one of the most reliable pollinators. Most bumble bees are ground-nesters using leaf litter, wood piles, or tree cavities as nest sites in colonies of 25 to 400. Most will die at the end of the summer, but queens hibernate through winter and emerge in spring to form a new colony.

SWEAT BEES:

A diverse group with 60 Florida species, most are brown or black but some of which are brightly colored metallic green, blue, or even purple. They come in varying sizes, some smaller than a grain of rice and are typically solitary nesters and are often abundant year-round.

DIGGER BEES (OR MINING BEES):

These solitary ground-nesters resemble European Honey Bees in size and shape. Mining bees are a diverse family and some of the first bees to fly in spring. You can usually spot their conspicuous nest entrances on the ground marked by mounds of excavated soil, often mistaken for ant hills.

LEAFCUTTER BEES:

These bees, about the size of honey bees, are known for their fuzziness, which helps them carry more pollen. Stripes, spots and iridescent colors are just a few of the stunning features that decorate this large family of solitary nesters. Many have large jaws which help in nest-building tasks, such as chewing leaves and stems, and transporting them to nests. If you see a round hole in a rose leaf, you definitely have leafcutter bees nearby. Leafcutter bees have pollen-collecting structures on the underside of their abdomens, so if you spot a bee with bright yellow or white pollen on her belly, you can be sure it belongs to this family.

CARPENTER BEES:

These bees resemble bumble bees but have a glossy, dark abdomen. They are wood boring bees that create nests in wood. These bees are active most of the year and may nest in February and March and again in summer months. The bees prefer nesting in conifers such as cypress, pine, or juniper. They may nest in the same area for generations. Small carpenter bees make their homes in stems of various dead plants. Adult females sometimes overwinter in hollow stems and continue to use the same stem as a nest. (That's a good reason to leave taller wildflowers with hollow stems to overwinter in your garden.) Large carpenter bees chew nests in wood, and can use fence posts, stumps, or dead tree branches.

MASON BEES:

These bees vary in color: some are black or white-stripped, or often metallic blue or green. They are solitary nesters that utilize mud and leaves to create nests. Florida is home to several species of these important pollinators, particularly for fruit trees and blueberries.

SOUTHEASTERN BLUEBERRY BEES:

A specific type of bee that is common in Florida and known for its preference for blueberry blossoms.



POLLINATORS ARE IN REAL DANGER!

Did you know that butterfly numbers have declined 22% from 2000 to 2020, and that some native bee species have faced as much as a 70% population decline over the same time span? There are many contributing factors to the decline of native pollinators including: habitat loss and destruction (due to increased development), greater use of pesticides (including organics such as BT), climate change, pressures from invasive species, and modern lawncare practices.

Here are some simple ways you can help: You can combat habitat loss by planting host plants or flowers pollinators use for nectar. Additionally, you can eliminate pesticide use on your property and in your garden. Finally, rather than planting and mowing a monocultured lawn, you can grow native groundcovers such as frogfruit, perennial peanut or sunshine mimosa, or you can leave sections of your yard unmowed to help create and maintain undisturbed habitats. Remember: Education is empowerment and even small changes matter!



Central Florida Butterflies



Gulf Fritillary
Host Plants: Passionvine

Monarch
Host Plants: Milkweed

Zebra Heliconian
(Zebra Longwing)
*State Butterfly
Host Plants: Corkystem Passionvine (prefer shade)

Orange-Barred Sulphur or Cloudless Sulphur
Host Plant: Sennas

White Peacock
Host Plants: Frogfruit, Waterhyssop

Dorantes Skipper
Host Plants: Ticktrefoils

Ocola Skipper
Host Plants: Grasses

Polydamas Swallowtail
Host Plants: Red Bay, Swamp Bay

Black Swallowtail
Host Plants: Parsley, Dill, Fennel

Spicebush Swallowtail
Host Plants: Water Dropwort, Red Bay, Sassafras, Camphortree, Sweetbay Magnolia

Cassius Blue
Host Plants: Cowpeas, Milkpeas, Plumbago

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Host Plants: Sweet Bay Magnolia

Common Buckeye
Host Plants: False Foxglove, Bluehearts, Toadflax

Zebra Swallowtail
Host Plants: Pawpaws

Painted Lady
Host Plants: Thistles

Giant Swallowtail
Host Plants: Citrus, Wild Lime

Hairstreaks
Host Plants: Oaks

Red Admiral
Host Plants: False Nettle, Pellitory

Queen
Host Plants: Milkweeds, Swallowwort, Whitevine

Horace's Duskywing
Host Plants: Oaks

Recommended Nectar Plants To Support Adult Butterflies and Bees

Although each species of butterfly caterpillars has a specific host plant, adult butterflies and bees prefer a variety of flowering plants for nectar. Bees also collect pollen to feed their young. Planting a variety of plants of all sizes and colors assures different sized pollinators will have food. Blooms year round are essential.

SEEDS

- **Bee Balm** (*Monarda fistulosa*, Red, Pink) **N, S, PS, H**
- **Mexican Sunflower** (*Tithonia rotundifolia*, Orange) **S**
- **Partridge Pea** (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*, Gold) **N, S, PS**
- **Zinnia** (All colors) **S, PS**

FLOWERING PLANTS

- **Coreopsis** (*Coreopsis floridana*, Gold) **N, S**
- **Native Lantana** (*Lantana involucrata* and *Lantana depressa*, Gold) **N, S**
- **Pentas** (*Pentas lanceolata*, Red/White/Pink/Lavender) **S, PS**
- **Salvia** (Native and Non-native variety, Red/White/Pink/Purple) **N, S, PS, H**
- **Stokes' Asters** (*Stokesia laevis*, Blue/Purple/Pink/White) **N, PS**

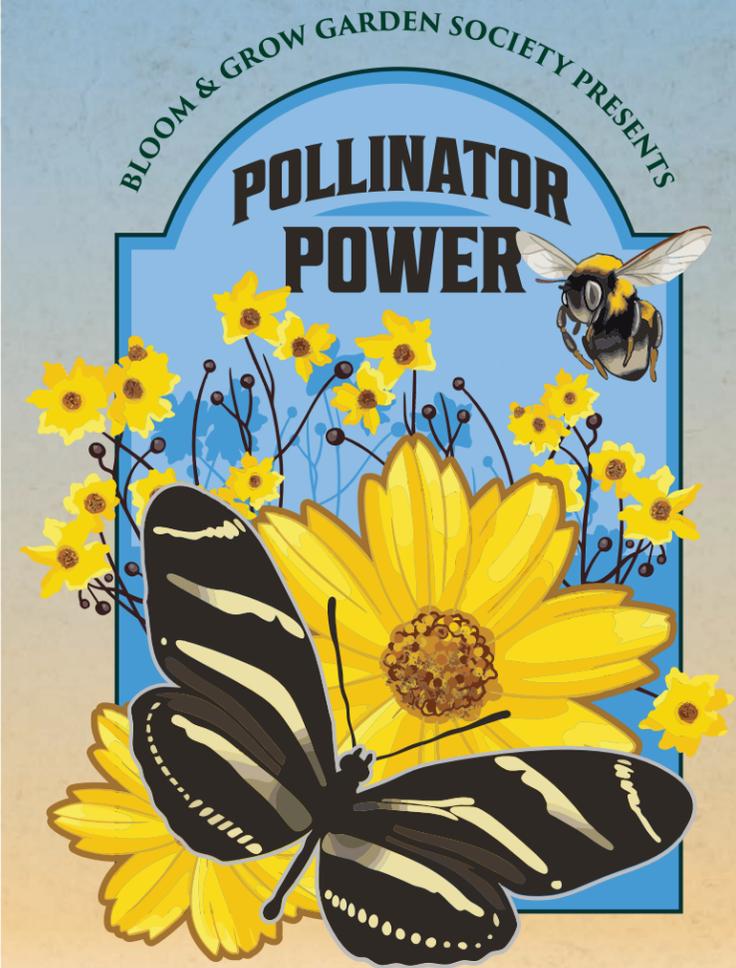
SHRUBS

- **Firebush** (*Hamelia patens* or dwarf variety, Orange) **N, S, PS**
- **Fire Spike** (*Odontonema strictum*, Red) **S, PS, H**
- **Jatropha** (*Jatropha integerrima* and *Jatropha multifida*, Red) **S, PS, H**
- **Plumbago** (*Plumbago auriculata* and *Plumbago zeylanica*, Light Blue/White) **S, PS**
- **Wild Coffee** (*Psychotria nervosa* or dwarf variety, White) **N, PS, SH, B**

VINES

- **Passionvines** (Purple/White) **N, S, PS, S**

S – Sunlight **SH** – Shade **PS** – Partial Sunlight
N – Native to Florida
H – Attracts Hummingbirds **B** – Attract birds



Pollinator Power is a program of the Bloom and Grow Garden Society as promoted by the National Federation of Garden Clubs. Our mission is: To inspire and educate individuals, community groups, and institutions to create more pollinator habitats through sustainable gardening practices, habitat creation, and conservation. With a focus on residential, schools, and urban spaces, we promote replacing monoculture with blooming species and host plants. We provide community activities including community education and plant accessibility.

To download information on this brochure, go to www.bloomandgrow.club

For more information on Pollinator Power, go to www.bloomandgrow.club/pollinator-power

Flowers

