

## **Pollinators and Native Plants**

Pollination is a vital stage in the life cycle of all flowering plants. When pollen is moved within a flower or carried from one flower to another of the same species it leads to fertilization. This transfer of pollen is necessary for healthy and productive native and agricultural ecosystems. Pollinators are often keystone species, meaning that they are critical to an ecosystem. The work of pollinators ensures full harvests of crops and contributes to healthy plants everywhere.

- An estimated 1/3 of all foods and beverages are delivered by pollinators.
- In the U.S., pollination produces nearly \$20 billion worth of products annually.
- Declines in the health and population of pollinators in North America and globally pose what could be a significant threat to the integrity of biodiversity, to global food webs, and to human health. A number of pollinator species are at risk.

### **What can you do?**

**Reduce your impact!** Reduce or eliminate pesticide use, keep spaces “green”, minimize urbanization.

**Plant for pollinators!** Provide pollinator-friendly habitat by installing native plants that provide nectar, pollen and homes.

**Tell your friends!**

#### **Links:**

Pollinator Partnership:

<http://www.pollinator.org/>

FREE Eco-Regional Planting Guides:

<http://www.pollinator.org/guides.htm>