



Gardening for Pollinators Syllabus

This course is entirely self-paced and will not be moderated by an instructor. However, if you have questions, please contact education@nativeplanttrust.org.

Pre-Class Survey (Required)

Unit 1: Meet the Pollinators

- Course Introduction and Background
- Slideshow: Plants' and Pollinators' Ecosystem Roles (12 min)
- Slideshow: Plant-Pollinator Interactions (14 min)
- Resource: Pollination Syndromes Chart
- Additional Readings: Pollinator Fact Sheets
- Additional Readings: Plant-Pollinator Interactions
- Quiz: Matching Plants and Pollinators
- Suggested Books on Pollinator Identification and Life History
- Activity: Observing Pollinators

Unit 2: Saving Our Pollinators

- Slideshow: Status of Pollinators (7 min)
- Slideshow: Threats to Pollinators (10 min)
- Additional Readings: Research Findings on Pollinator Threats
- Reading: Case Study—Homeowners Investigate Systemic Pesticide Alternatives
- Resources: Xerces Society and Climate Central
- Quiz: Threat Assessment

Unit 3: Assessing Your Yard

- Slideshow: Pollinator Habitat Needs (11 min)
- Resources: Bee Basics and Building Bee Houses
- Slideshow: Invasive Plants Review (6 min)
- Activity: Identifying Invasive Plants in Your Yard

Unit 4: Pollinator Garden Planning and Design

- Slideshow: Determining Your Yard's Growing Conditions (9 min)
- Activity: Assessing Your Soil
- Resource: Hardiness Zones and Soil-Testing Agencies
- Activity: Recording Your Yard Characteristics
- Slideshow: Planning Your Pollinator Garden (12 min)
- Activity: Finalizing Your Garden Design
- Suggested Books on Ecological Gardening Practices

Unit 5: Plant Selection for Pollinators

- Slideshow: Selecting Your Pollinator Garden Plants (13 min)
- Resources: Pollinator Kit Garden Designs
- Activity: Choosing Your Plants
- Activity: Generating a Shopping List
- Suggested Books on Garden Installation and Maintenance

Unit 6: Garden Installation and Maintenance

- Slideshow: Installing Your Pollinator Garden (9 min)
- Activity: Creating a Planting Plan
- Video: Buying Healthy Plants (5 min)
- Video: How to Plant a Tree (13 min)
- Video: Planting Small Shrubs and Herbaceous Plants (7 min)
- Activity: Mapping Your Garden Installation and Maintenance Timeline
- Slideshow: Maintaining Your Pollinator Garden Through the Seasons (9 min)
- Resources: Best Garden Maintenance Practices
- Resources: Complete Reference List and Web Resources to Explore
- Activity: Installing Your Pollinator Garden
- Activity: Joining a Conservation Effort with Your Yard
- Course Evaluation / Feedback (Required)
 - Resources: Plant Identification Books, USDA Plants Database, and Go Botany
 - Activity: Backyard Botany
 - Quiz: Plant and Pollinator Knowledge