

SEASON OF CREATION: ACTION CLOSE TO HOME: PLANT A POLLNATOR GARDEN

A number of studies have shown that urban pollinator gardens are critical to the well-being of and food supply for insect pollinators. They are a modest, but important environmental support for bees, butterflies, moths and other flying insects, because urban gardeners use less or no harmful chemicals.

There is much information out there on what is, and how to maintain, a pollinator garden.

Below is a list of web sites with great advice and encouragement for those who want to plant this kind of garden.

Over the past few years, I have consciously planted flowers and shrubs that encourage insect visits. Many of my flowering plants are first cousins to wildflowers although I have wildflowers also. My garden is somewhat messy and crowded, but very colourful! Almost all the plants are hardy, although watering and weeding are still necessary. However, watering can be sparse because, in an extended dry period the plants dry up or grow sparsely, but they come back when rain returns.

What I did not expect was the call to meditation and prayer from the flowers and insects. I find myself standing still and quiet, next to my plants. I contemplate their colours, scent, and shapes. I watch the bees (several species come at the same time), in a kind of ecstatic dance as they wiggle into one flower after another. I watch the butterflies and moths pop from one blossom to another, only resting once in a while. I have learned their habits; the time of day and the amount of sun or shadow that they like best. I am at one with them, and grateful to God, the source of this mystery we call life. What gifts my garden has given me!

A flower garden can be planted almost anywhere, even in balcony or doorstep pots.

“A Garden is a lovesome thing, God wot! Rose plot. Fringed pool, Fern’d grot – The verist school Of peace, and yet the fool Contends that God is not – Not God! In gardens! When the eve is cool? Ay, but I have a sign; ‘Tis very sure God walks in mine.” (Thomas Edward Brown, 1830 – 1897)

https://theconversation.com/why-urban-gardens-are-crucial-for-conserving-bees-and-butterflies-and-how-you-can-help-them-155098

https://davidsuzuki.org/queen-of-green/how-to-create-a-butterfly-garden/

https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/01/200129091438.htm

https://davidsuzuki.org/project/pollinators/?gclid=CjwKCAjw-sqKBhBjEiwAVaQ9a9xYidZVG6yemImNi9Gi4zXvLgzqN4LSCeQpjFiNJ5IcPmD3C5wbGRoCuokQAvD_BwE

http://beebettermb.ca/why-are-pollinators-important#:~:text=Plants%20are%20an%20important%20foundation,by%20providing%20cross%2Dpollination%20services.&text=species.&text=They%20also%20support%20wildlife%2C%20as,for%20a%20variety%20of%20animals.

Submitted by Lois Zachariah