

HELPING CANADA'S POLLINATORS IN THE GARDEN

Canada's pollinators play a critical role in our ecosystems, food production and economy through pollination. Some are also important in pest control. These tiny allies face many challenges, such as pesticide use and loss of habitat, making it more important than ever to support them. A great place to start is to ensure your outdoor space is pollinator-friendly.

Grow a diversity of plants to provide pollinators with **food** – flowers for adults and leaves for some pollinators' younger stages of life. Include as many native plants as possible, and avoid cultivated plants whose flowers no longer produce nectar and pollen. Provide pollinators with **shelter** for nesting and overwintering, such as a mulch pile of autumn leaves, a patch of thick low-growing vegetation, some sunny bare ground, tree stumps, logs, or pithy plant stems. Some pollinators will benefit from a shallow **water** dish with stones to safely perch on. Keep your garden **safe** by avoiding pesticides, which can harm or kill pollinators or the insects and spiders that many pollinators feed on.

Bees | Canada has approximately 900 bee species. A few of them, such as bumble bees, are large and live in hives, but most are tiny and solitary, living only to make a nest, mate, lay eggs, provision them with food and then die. Most species live in soil, although some live in holes in wood or in pithy or hollow plant stems.



Butterflies | Butterflies need to eat leaves during their larval, or caterpillar, stage. Adults drink their food, which is typically flower nectar. Some species also feed on tree sap, damp sand, damp earth, or damp decomposing organic matter, such as compost, manure, fruit, animal flesh and feces. Butterflies prefer sunny areas sheltered from the wind to feed and warm up.



Hummingbirds | Hummingbirds need flower nectar, insects and spiders for their nutrient needs. If you have a sugar water feeder, also include tubular flowers (large or small) so hummingbirds can access nectar from a natural food source.

Flies | Many flies are important pollinators in Canada, including hover (or flower) flies. Similar to wasps and bees, many species of hover flies have shiny yellow-black or orange-black patterns or hairy white-black or orange-black colouring.

Wasps | Wasps are both pollinators and pest control allies and are gaining appreciation, especially in agriculture, for their services. Most wasps are solitary, non-stinging species.

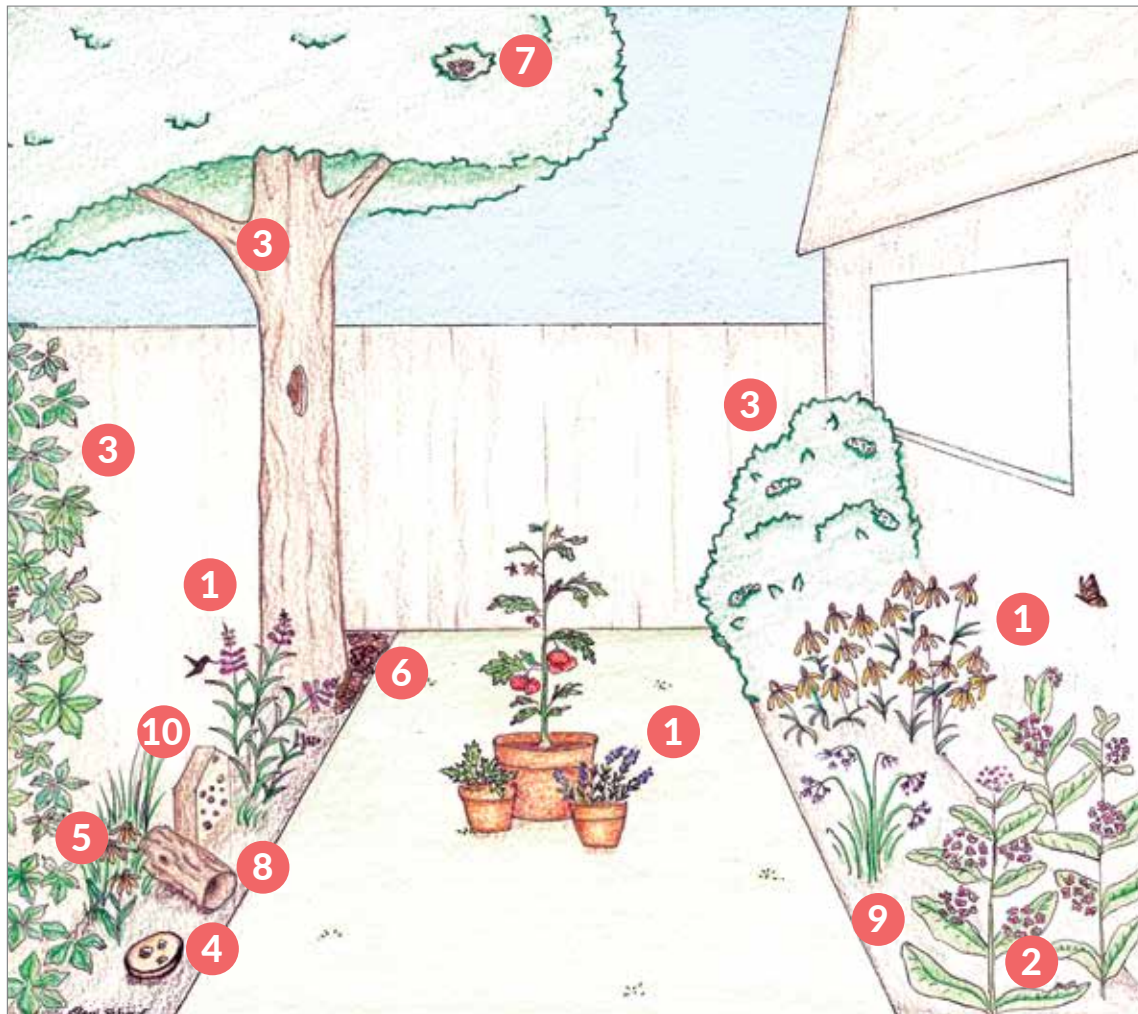
Moths | Some moths only feed at the caterpillar stage and then mate and die once in adult form. Other moths feed from flowers as adults, either at night or during the day. This is true of the Hummingbird Clearwing Moth, which feeds during the day and is sometimes mistaken for a small hummingbird.



Beetles | Many beetles pollinate flowers, including some fireflies which require a moist environment with tall vegetation.

For more information on pollinators and wildlife-friendly gardening, visit CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/Gardening

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Food

1. Nectar and pollen-rich flowers of varying shapes, sizes, colours and bloom times
2. Leaves
3. Habitat for insects and spiders, which are food for some pollinators

Water

4. Insect water dish

Shelter

5. Thick vegetation (e.g. vines, patches of tall grass, clustered flowers)
6. Fallen leaves, either as mulch or as a pile
7. Trees for nesting and resting
8. Logs, stumps
9. Sunny, well-drained, exposed soil
10. Solitary bee/wasp hotel

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