

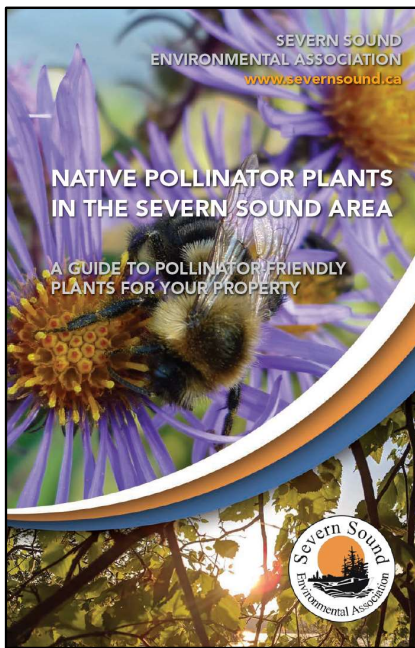
# What are Pollinators?



Pollinators are bees, butterflies, birds & other wildlife that move pollen from one plant to another, helping plants to reproduce & grow. Pollinators are vital to a healthy & resilient ecosystem. The work of pollinators ensures full harvests of crops & contributes to healthy plants. An estimated 1/3 of all food crops we consume are supported by pollinators. Without pollinators, we wouldn't have these crops.



Photo: A ChianDET



## What's the Issue?

Pollinators are facing threats such as habitat loss, pesticide use & climate change. In Canada, bee and butterfly species, have declined or disappeared, and there has been a critical reduction in the number of migrating Monarchs. SSEA works with our partners to develop and implement projects to create, enhance and restore pollinator habitat.

Download our pollinator guide!  
[www.severnsound.ca](http://www.severnsound.ca)

Tag us in photos of your pollinator garden: **#severnsoundpollinates**

The Projects 4 Pollinators initiative is generously supported by:



**TD Friends of the Environment Foundation**

SSEA is a Joint Municipal Service Board serving Severn Sound municipalities:



# You Can Help!

## Plant a wildflower garden!

- Plant diversity attracts & supports pollinators including butterflies, bees, birds, & other animals
- Flowering species add beauty & colour to the landscape
- Even small plots of native wildflowers and grasses can provide safe-haven for pollinators to rest & feed



Photo: A Chiandet

## Tips on Creating a Wildflower Meadow

### Site Preparation

- It is important to provide a good seedbed for wildflowers as they compete poorly with established weeds & grasses
- The ground should be rototilled or the sod removed to provide good seed-to-soil contact

### Timing

- Fall seeding is best many seeds must be exposed to cold and moist conditions in winter to germinate
- To do spring planting, simulate a "winter " – place seeds in a sealed plastic bag with damp sand or potting mix and put in the fridge for 8 weeks, then spread outside after the danger of frost has passed

### Planting

- A seeding rate of approximately 4 pounds per acre is recommended; seed packet covers approximately 3-4 square feet
- Use a carrier such as vermiculite, sand, or sawdust to help evenly spread the seed
- Spread seed as evenly as possible & rake very lightly
- Weed-free straw laid 1/8 inch deep can be used as mulch

### Establishment

- Keep soil moist for a month after planting
- Some seedlings will appear within 2 weeks while others will take 4+ weeks
- Some perennials will not flower until the second year
- Fertilizer is not recommended, as this can encourage weeds & grasses
- After flowering is completed in late summer or fall, one mowing is recommended
- Mowing will help spread seeds for next year's flowers & will improve the look of the planting

### Questions?

Contact us at [sseainfo@severnsound.ca](mailto:sseainfo@severnsound.ca)

