

## GROWS Partners for Pollinators



So, you want to help the butterflies and bees. We have a way for YOU to make a difference! Join us in adding an abundance and diversity of flowers in the Faribault landscape. GROWS (Gardeners Reaching Out with Service) is partnering with the City of Faribault to encourage residents to plant pollinator gardens or add to existing ones. Learn about the value of pollinators and what they need to survive.

To help you get started, the following websites are highly recommended:

For an in-depth look at planning, planting, and maintaining pollinator habit in your yard, go to the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources website and click on Lawns to Legumes: “Your Yard Can Bee the Change. There you will find the *Planting for Pollinators Habitat Guide*.

<https://bwsr.state.mn.us>

*Habitat Assessment Guide for Pollinators in Yards, Gardens, and Parks*

This tool will tell you what you may already be doing to help pollinators in your yard and will help you prioritize the most essential “next steps”. This website is also a wonderful resource for all things “pollinator.”

<https://www.xerces.org>

Ready, Set, Go!

1. Choose a sunny spot in your yard, a group of containers or window boxes. If a garden, prepare your site using one of the methods described in the *Planting for Pollinators Habitat Guide*.
2. Pick primarily high-quality native plants which offer better pollen and nectar resources for pollinators. Avoid plants treated with Neonic insecticides and other harmful pesticides.
3. Plan to have something blooming (at least 3 species) in each part of the growing season - early, midseason, and late. A variety of colors, sizes, shapes, scents, will appeal to the needs of a wide diversity of

pollinators that may visit your garden. Add native grasses for nesting and herbs like parsley, basil, and borage.

4. While not native, to Faribault, annual Sunflowers, Salvia, Alyssum, Zinnias and Tithonia appeal to many pollinators and bloom for a long time.
5. Start planting and summon your patience. Many native plants take more than one season to reach their peak. Yr1 SLEEP Yr2 CREEP Yr3 LEAP
6. Nurture your garden. Watch and water deeply every so often when first planted, especially in dry weather. Once established, native plants seldom need watering.
7. Native plants do well without fertilizing. They evolved in our native soils.
8. Keep your garden pesticide and herbicide free.
9. Add native trees and shrubs. They are critical food and shelter resources to support a diversity of pollinators and other insects. Without insects to feed their young, our bird populations suffer.

Native Plant Sources that we have used and can recommend

### *Faribault*

Rice Soil and Water Conservation District

<https://www.riceswcd.org/>

### *Owatonna*

Blazing Star Gardens

<https://www.blazingstargardens.com/>

*Winona*

Prairie Moon Nursery

<https://www.prairiemoon.com/>