

Pollinator Facts



Beatrice Moisset



Jade Hems

- **80% of plants require pollination for successful reproduction**
- **Pollinators are essential for 75% of common food crops, according to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.**
- **Pollinators include, in approximate order of importance to pollination:**
 - **Bees and wasps**
 - **Flies**
 - **Butterflies**
 - **Hummingbirds**
 - **Beetles**
 - **Bats and other small mammals**
 - **Ants**
- **Native plants support more pollinators than exotic plants, although some exotic plants do attract pollinators.**
- **Pollinators are declining in numbers. Some of these losses are associated with diseases, parasites, habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, landscape deterioration, and climate change. (Department of Defense National Resource Program)**

Coastal Prairie Chapter Texas Master Naturalist



John Donaho

We are a group of trained volunteers who share our appreciation and knowledge of nature with the community through outreach, education and conservation/restoration projects.

Visit our website for more information:

txmn.org/coastal



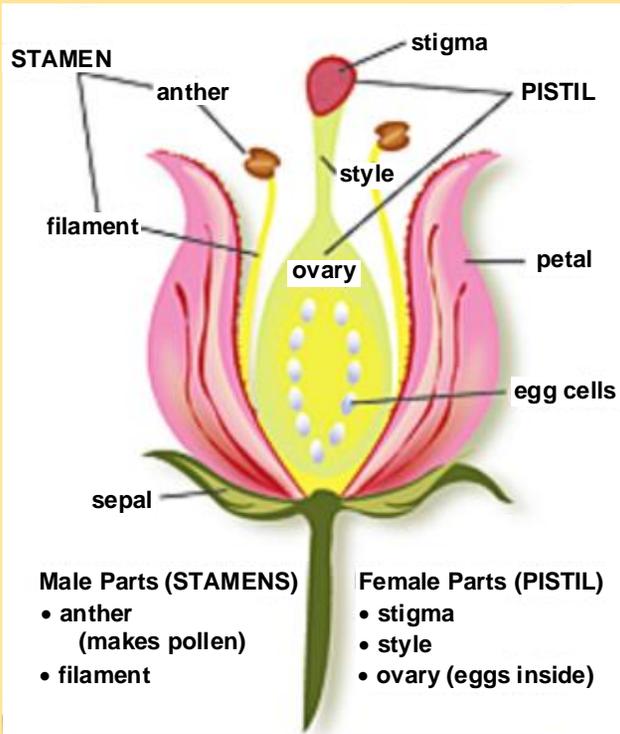
Pollinators



Eric Eisley



What is Pollination?



<http://pollinator.org/pollinators>

Pollination is a process that produces seeds, fruits, and the next generation of plants. This can happen through self-pollination, wind and water pollination, or through the work of pollinators that move pollen within the flower and from bloom to bloom.

Plants become pollinated when pollen comes in contact with the fruit bearing part of the plant's flowers.

Wildlife pollinators support life both because of their pollination and also many pollinating insects and other animals are a food source for other wildlife. They are an essential part of the food web. A decline in their numbers causes a loss in their predator's population as well and a decrease in biodiversity.

Grow Native Plants to Attract Pollinators

To attract pollinators, provide a variety of native plants in your yard or landscape that will provide sustenance throughout the year. Some examples are listed below.

Spring flowers & grasses:

- Bee balm (*Monarda*)
- Blue bonnets
- Indian blanket
- Lance-leaved *coreopsis*
- Gulf Coast *penstemon*
- Native milkweed (*A. tuberosa, perennis, viridis*)

Fall flowers & grasses:

- Goldenrod (use shorter species)
- Little Bluestem
- *Tridens Longspike*

Summer flowers & grasses:

- Spiderwort
- Black-eyed Susan
- Partridge pea
- Mexican hat
- Ironweed
- Passionflower
- Basket flower
- Rattlesnake master
- Blue mistflower
- *Liatris (pycnostachya)*

Spring to Fall flowers & grasses:

- Blue Sage
- Red Sage
- Slender rosinweed
- Texas coneflower
- Knotroot bristlegrass

Want to learn more about starting a native plant garden? Check out these QR Codes from Katy Prairie Conservancy and the Native Plant Society of Texas Houston.



Things You can Do in Your Yard to Encourage Pollinators

(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

- *Provide a water source - place shallow dishes of water in sunny areas or create a muddy spot, such as a butterfly puddling dish.*

To prevent mosquito larva in your water source, keep the water moving with a bubbler or fountain.



<http://butterfly-lady.com/tag/puddling/>

- *Provide shelter and over-wintering habitat (bee boxes, undisturbed soil areas, and piles of woody debris).*



<http://content.yardmap.org/learn/bee-hotels/>

- *Stop using insecticides and reduce other pesticides.*
- *Use compost instead of commercial fertilizers.*
- *Look but do not touch.*