

Native Pollinator Garden

We are facing a decline of native species of plants due to urbanization and agricultural practices. This is contributing to a loss of biodiversity as unsustainable landscapes are littered with grass and asphalt. The effect is devastating on the pollinators that have evolved to survive on these specific ecosystems and three quarters of plants require pollination. Conventional gardening requires high levels of water which is a very limited resource, but native plants are suited to our climate.

A solution to this challenge is citizen science in the form of native pollinator gardening. Not only does native gardening support pollinators which augments our sustenance gardening, but it gives our next generation an opportunity to first hand observe life cycles. Community, school and private gardens of all sizes and shapes could be attracting biodiversity through simply planting a native pollinator garden, we can do this together in our communities, at our schools or in our yards.

I plan to propose the development of an educational opportunity by incorporating native pollinator gardening into the current garden-based curriculum at my son's school, giving the opportunity to teach the value of pollinators and their role in agriculture and our environment.

This is my first growing season so I want to develop relationships with all of the stakeholders in the current gardening community. For the following growing season, I would like to see the native pollinator garden implemented along with curriculum, with myself interacting with the teachers and students, educating about pollinators and their role in the garden as well as working with middle school students monitoring the garden and charting results of pollinators found.

Gardens have always brought together people, and adding a pollinator garden will only enhance experiences bringing biodiversity, educational opportunities while making your community a brighter and more sustainable environment and growth and learning for all.

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