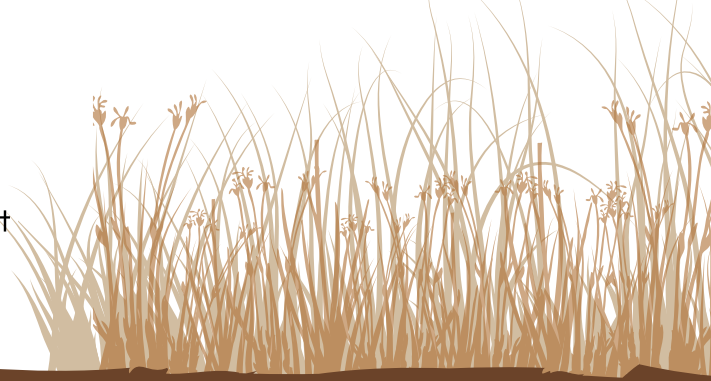


# Pollinator Garden:

a garden that is planted and designed, with plants that produce nectar and pollen attracting pollinating insects known as pollinators.



In addition to supporting native birds and pollinators with shelter and food. Native plants promote soil health by preventing soil erosion, while filtering carbon emissions from the air.



## Get Started: Plan out your garden

Pick a combination of native plants that provide continuous bloom during the growing season (March - November) and food and shelter throughout the year.

- Depending on the garden size, planting several different species of native plants will attract a variety of pollinators to the garden.
- Planting 3-4 of the same plant variety together in a section creates "bundles" attracting more pollinators providing adequate nectar harvest in addition to structure and continuity in the garden.



## Site Preparation: Clearing out space

Before planting, the garden site should be completely free of grass and weeds to prevent weeds from overshadowing and taking over the space.



Sod Removal

Digging up the top few inches of grass and soil is ideal for smaller garden sites with little to no weeds. Plant seeds and plants directly into the soil after all of the sod has been removed.



Solarization

Cover full sun areas during June-August with a tarp or woven landscape fabric and weigh down the area with pins, boards or bricks to smother out grass and weed seedlings. Remove the cover once sod has died (2-3 months). After dead sod is removed, plant seeds and plants directly into soil.



Smothering

Kill sod by covering area with overlapping cardboard and adding a 4"- 5" layer of dry leaves, grass clippings and another layer of compost. Allow layers to compost for a full growing season before planting in.

## KCCG Native Plants:

Available Summer



Echinacea



Baptisia



Black-Eyed Susan



Penstemon



Mountain Mint

## KCCG herbs:



Thyme



Oregano



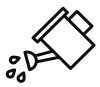
Sage



Garlic Chives



Basil



## **Garden Maintenance:** Watering, weeding and mulching.

Watering: Newly planted transplants and seeds are delicate and too much water pressure will damage transplants or carry seeds away.

- Use a gentle shower nozzle or soaker hose to avoid causing any damage.
- For the first 2 weeks after planting, water garden until moist but not wet. During weeks 3 and 4, water when top 2" of soil surface is dry. Weeks 5 and 6 check periodically and water if top 4" of soil is dry.

Weeding: Pull out any weed seedlings that try to grow around plants. Established plants will double in size by the third year filling in and protecting exposed surface from weeds seeds.

Mulching: While plants are growing during the 1st and 2nd year cover exposed soil with 2" of mulch protecting the soil from extreme weather and weeds.



Wood Chips



Pine Bark



Dry Mulched Leaves

- "Live mulch" or "groundcover" is a plant that grows 6" or less. Using groundcovers to cover and protect the soil is a great alternative with the added benefit of supply shelter and food to the pollinators.



Cedar Sedge



Woodland Stonecrop



Prairie Pussytoes



## **Cutting back and clearing out:**

Deadheading: Encourage plants to bloom continuously by cutting off spent flowers so the plant can send energy into creating more flowers. Consider leaving some seed heads available because these are a good source of food for birds.



Cutting Back: Spent plants should be cut back to the base to remove old vegetation that would otherwise be shading out your newly emerging perennials.

Once the garden has gone dormant wait to clear out dead leaves, stems and seed heads from the garden until March. When you do cut, consider using some of the cut plant materials as mulch.



**Learn more about pollinator gardens through these partner organizations:**





# Pollinator Garden Resources Guide



Learn more about native plants and the pollinators they support through these local organizations and the resources they provide.



## Native Plant Distributers

Find native plants using this [national database](#) specific to your zip code.

Narrow down your plant search by scientific name, color and size plant [database](#).

Find a native plant nursery in [Missouri](#).



## Planning and Planting Tips

Learn tips and trick to [planting and maintaining](#) a pollinator garden.

Take the guess work out planning your pollinator garden and use pre-planned [planting garden plans](#).

Find Top [10 native plant list](#) including a list of the top native plants for school gardens.



## Continuing Education

Learn about the [monarch butterflies](#) favorite native plants.

Browse a catalog of native plant [webinars](#).

[Participate](#) in a field trip tour and listen to a guest speaker talk about Missouri native plants.



## Pollinator Garden Grants

[Community Conservation Grant](#) - Missouri Department of Conservation

[Budding Botanist Grant](#) - Klorane Botanical Foundation

[Apply](#) and receive free milkweed plants from KU

