

Autumn Gardens: Tending to the Needs of Pollinators

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Maintaining pollinator gardens in the fall prepares them as habitat for the winter and reemergence in the spring. Here are some of the most effective practices to make your garden pollinator-friendly throughout the year:

- Fall is one of the best times to plant new plants. It's important to keep plants moist once transplanted to avoid shock.

Some plants to consider:

Shrubs: Vibrainium, Gray or red-twig (red osier) dogwood

Trees: Bald Cypress (in wet areas), Black Gum, Oaks (southern red, white oak), Red Bud,

Perennials: Cardinal flower, Beard Tongue, Blue Lobelia

Check with your nursery/garden center for advice on the best species best suited for your yard/land.

- Thin and transplant perennials. This is a native gardeners delight for sure: having more plants than you started with *and* being able to spread the love.
- Cover plants sensitive to frost.
- Add a thin layer of mulch around garden beds to discourage weeds and protect the root systems of non-cold hardy plants.
- Leave plant debris on the ground. Insect eggs are often found in fallen leaves, twigs, stems and other detritus which are important to the health of the garden and ecosystem. Seeds still may be attached to the plant debris, which is important for garden revitalization and growth.
- Refrain from pruning too much. Pruning is often most effective in the spring, but some trimming or attending to disease or fungus may be effective.

Native pollinator gardens not only provide a beautiful landscape, but they are also essential habitat for native insects, pollinators, flora, and fauna.

Find out more about creating a pollinator friendly garden:
<https://www.lowershorelandtrust.org/pollinators>

Other great resources for pollinator information:
<https://www.pollinator.org>
<https://xerces.org/>

