

the POLLINATOR GARDEN at serenbe

garden stewardship

“In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators, and manage water.”

— Doug Tallamy,
homegrownnationalpark.org

Pollinators such as butterflies and moths, bees, wasps, flies, and beetles provide an essential service to many ecosystems here in Serenbe. By carrying pollen from one plant to another, they help plants produce our food.

According to the Xerxes Society’s Pollinator Conservation Program, we can help pollinators thrive by supporting four basic needs:

- **FOOD** in the form of abundant flowering plants that provide nectar and pollen throughout the entire growing season
- **SHELTER & NESTING SITES**, including host plants for butterfly species as well as stems, dead wood, and other garden litter for hiding places
- **PROTECTION FROM PESTICIDES** that may kill pollinators even though they are intended for other species

- **ADVOCACY** in the form of educating others about the importance of protecting pollinators

In this garden, you will see many blooming plants throughout the growing season that provide food for pollinators. You will also see swamp milkweed, one of the native host plants for the threatened monarch butterfly. You will NOT see a “tidy” garden at the end of the growing season. Plant stems and fallen leaves provide shelter for over-wintering pollinators. This garden is also pesticide-free, in line with Serenbe guidelines for all landscaped spaces.

Please enjoy this garden and the pollinators who visit it. We hope you will take home ideas that you can apply in your own gardens to help protect pollinators.

finding food in the garden



MILKWEED is a favorite food for monarch caterpillars.



Bees and butterflies feed on the nectar and pollen of **JOE-PYE WEED**.



PURPLE CONEFLOWER provides seeds for birds.

the POLLINATOR GARDEN at serenbe

what's in the garden?

- 1. Abelia
- 2. Beardtongue
- 3. Beebalm
- 4. Black-eyed Susan
- 5. Blue anise sage
- 6. Butterfly bush
- 7. Butterfly weed
- 8. Cardinal flower
- 9. Catmint
- 10. Chaste tree
- 11. Common milkweed
- 12. Goldenrod
- 13. Joe-pye weed
- 14. Purple coneflower
- 15. Swamp milkweed
- 16. Tall garden phlox
- 17. Yarrow



what's in the garden?

1



ABELIA (*Abelia x chinensis*) 'Rose Creek' is an attractive compact shrub with dense, glossy green foliage that takes on burgundy-bronze hues in winter. Its tidy, mounded habit and fragrant white flowers with rose sepals are rich in nectar and pollen and attract bees and other pollinators. Black, tiger, and spicebush swallowtail butterflies all love abelia.

2



BEARDTONGUE (*Penstemon digitalis*) derives its common name from the hairs that line the protruding lower petal of its tubular flowers. These hairs force pollinators deeper into the flower, and fine lines within the tube act as “running lights” to guide sweat bees, leafcutter bees, and newly hatched bumble bees to the rich nectar. Beardtongue also attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. Attractive dark red foliage provides garden interest when the plants are not in flower. Beardtongue is drought and heat tolerance, and deer and rabbit resistance.

3



BEEBALM (*Monarda didyma*) is a member of the mint family and an active grower in southern gardens, so allow plenty of space for it to spread. Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds are attracted to the nectar-rich, brilliant red flowers. With both fragrant foliage and colorful flowers, beebalm is ideal for making potpourri. When crushed, the foliage will release a spicy fragrance and the leaves, either fresh or dried, can be used to make delightful teas.

4



BLACK-EYED SUSAN (*Rudbeckia hirta*) is a member of the Composite family, the largest family of flowering plants. Black-eyed Susan produces plentiful nectar and pollen. The longer-tongued pollinators like bumblebees, butterflies, and moths are attracted to the nectar in the center floral tubes, and short-tongued bees forage for the protein-rich pollen on the anthers. This plant loves sun, has a long bloom season, and readily self-sows. It is not unusual to see American goldfinches, chickadees, cardinals, and white-breasted nuthatches feeding on its seeds.

5



BLUE ANISE SAGE (*Salvia gauranitca*) is also known as Brazilian sage, hummingbird sage, or anise sage. The leaves have a wrinkly texture and slight serration along the edges and, when bruised, emit a delicate anise aroma, which also makes it very resistant to browsing deer and rabbits. The tubular flower structure and rich nectar make it a particularly inviting plant for hummingbirds. It begins to bloom in late spring, and if cut back in mid-summer when the first blossoms fade, it will continue to bloom until the frost. Honey bees, native bees, and butterflies are also attracted to the nectar-rich flowers.

6



BUTTERFLY BUSH (*Buddleia davidii*), a sun-loving perennial shrub, can reach 8- to 10-foot tall and wide; dwarf varieties are available that reach 3-foot tall. Butterfly bush produces flowers ranging in color from white to pink to deep violet throughout the summer. It is a magnet for butterflies seeking nectar. They are attracted by the long spikes of tiny, honey-scented blossoms, whose dilute nectar is sweetest in midday sun. Monarchs, mourning cloaks, red admirals, tiger swallowtails, gulf fritillary, and spicebush swallowtail can be seen visiting butterfly bush.

what's in the garden?

7



BUTTERFLY WEED (*Asclepia tuberosa*) is a long-lived herbaceous perennial in the milkweed family and native to much of North America. It produces large clusters of bright orange to yellow-orange flowers, which are heavily laden with nectar and pollen, and particularly attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies, native bees, and other beneficial insects. It is a larval host for the grey hairstreak, monarch, and queen butterflies.

8



CARDINAL FLOWER (*Lobelia cardinalis*) is a perennial, native to the U.S. and Canada and grows best in humus-rich, moist to wet soils in full sun, part shade, and even shade. Its name alludes not to the northern cardinal (bird), but to the bright red robes worn by Roman Catholic cardinals. Many insects such as bees, flies, and beetles find it difficult to navigate the long tubular flowers, so cardinal flower depends mainly on hummingbirds, which feed on its nectar, for pollination.

9



CATMINT (*Nepeta faassenii*) 'Walker's Low' is one of the longest blooming perennials available, providing five months of flowers. In late spring, a profusion of fragrant, trumpet-shaped lavender-purple flowers burst into bloom over neat mounds of grey-green foliage. The flowers are visited by pollinators of many varieties, but particularly bees. Honeybees, sweat bees, bumblebees, leaf cutter bees, mason bees, various wasps, butterflies, and even hummingbirds are attracted to the spikes of purple flowers.

10



CHASTE TREE (*Vitex agnus-castus*) is a small tree or shrub native to China and India, although long ago it became naturalized throughout the southern U.S. It bears candelabras of lavender-blue flowers from summer into fall, enticing honeybees, bumblebees, butterflies, and the occasional hummingbird.

11



COMMON MILKWEED (*Asclepia syriaca*) is a tall and conspicuous perennial, reaching upwards of 6 feet in height. The plant contains cardiac glycosides used in treating some heart disease. These compounds, when absorbed by monarch butterfly larvae whose sole source of food is milkweed foliage, make the larvae and adult butterflies toxic to birds and other predators. The monarch butterfly may be the most well-known visitor to milkweed flowers, but the plant attracts a long list of butterflies, flies, beetles, bees, and wasps due to its nectar-laden flowers.

12



GOLDENROD (*Solidago rugose*) 'Fireworks' creates a sensational display of vibrant golden flowers that seem to burst from the plant like skyrocket. Goldenrod grows to its ultimate height by midsummer, but it waits until late summer to branch out and explode into color. More than 11 native bee species feed specifically on the plant, and monarch butterflies depend on goldenrod for nectar to fuel their long migrations. In winter, songbirds feed on the seed heads long after the blossoms have faded. 'Fireworks' will grow in either full sun or partial shade. It prefers well-drained soils but adapts well to clay soils.

what's in the garden?

13



JOE-PYE WEED (*Eupatorium dubium*) 'Little Joe' is a dwarf species, rising a mere 3- to 4-feet high, as opposed to the native species that will reach 8-feet tall. It is a food source for several butterfly species including orange sulphur, pearl crescent, painted lady, giant swallowtail, tiger swallowtail, variegated fritillary, and red admiral. Joe-pye weed also attracts numerous other pollinators from large bumblebees to small bees to flies.

14



PURPLE CONEFLOWER (*Echinacea purpurea*) is native to the eastern United States and commonly found in many flower gardens. Despite its spiky nature, it is constantly surrounded by pollinators. Honey bees, bumblebees, small wasps, beetles, and flies are frequent visitors. It is also a favorite with butterflies since it produces plenty of nectar, and its flat disk offers a nice landing pad for big-winged butterflies like fritillaries, monarchs, painted ladies, and swallowtails.

15



SWAMP MILKWEED (*Asclepia incarnata*) also called Pink Milkweed produces large showy blossoms made up of clusters of small rose-purple flowers. Like its cousin, common milkweed, swamp milkweed is an important food source for the larvae of monarch and queen butterflies. Honey bees, many different species of native bees, and hummingbird moths are common visitors to swamp milkweed flowers as well. Hummingbirds will also occasionally feed on the flowers. True to its name, it thrives in moist soils, boggy areas, or even in a pond.

16



TALL GARDEN PHLOX (*Phlox paniculata*) is native to the eastern half of the U.S. It likes rich, well-drained soil and full to partial sunlight. Some varieties may reach as high as 5 feet. Garden phlox puts on a delightfully colorful show for several weeks from mid- to late summer. Butterflies, such as swallowtails, painted ladies, great spangled fritillaries, sulphurs, and skippers along with bumblebees and an occasional hummingbird find phlox irresistible. Also, night pollinators like hawkmoths are attracted to the sweet scent from late afternoon to dusk. Varieties with pale-colored or white blossoms are the true stars after dark.

17



YARROW (*Achillea millefolium*) 'Firefly Peach Sky' is easy to grow and a pollinator magnet. Its straight, sturdy flower stalks are a bit taller than other yarrow, keeping it upright and ready to support bees, butterflies, and other pollinating insects. It is unbothered by deer or rabbits and shrugs off hot, dry conditions. Soft ferny foliage brings a unique texture to the garden. This Proven Winner® variety stays more compact than some other varieties, which tend to become weedy.