

POLLINATORS

Pollinators need our help and... we need pollinators!

Bees pollinate \$15 billion of U.S. crops each year.

Here are **8 POLLINATOR FRIENDLY** actions to take right now!

1 USE *Native* PLANTS



Reduce turf grass areas and plant at least ¼ of your gardens with plants native to your area. Choose native plants that provide pollen and nectar at various times of the year to support pollinators.

3 Have a "NOT SO TIDY GARDEN"



Tolerate some weeds and plant damage.

Leave your GARDENS UP ALL WINTER



AND CUT BACK IN LATER SPRING. Many native bees overwinter in the stalks of your perennials and grasses and don't emerge until it the weather warms – approximately mid-April in Minnesota. The seeds of your garden plants will also help sustain birds through the winter.

Purchase **7** and support ORGANIC & SUSTAINABLE



products at the grocery store and farmer's markets.

GROW A BEE LAWN! **2**

Let your lawn be filled with low cover like clover, creeping charlie, violets, and dandelions to support pollinators.



Leave an UNDISTURBED **4** AREA

in your yard with some bare soil. 70% of native bees live in the soil.

Stop using all **6** NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES in your gardens

and keep chemicals off of lawns and gardens. Most chemical pesticides and fertilizers harm pollinators and contaminate groundwater. Ask your nursery or garden centers if plants have been treated with neonicotinoids and don't buy them if they have. Use IPM (integrated pest management) strategies instead.



Talk with your **8** FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS

about the importance of pollinators and how they are critical for our food supply and the ecosystem. **Share these actions!**

Learn more at: www.mnwcd.org

