

Plant & Pollinator Cards

Use these cards for the following Budburst Nativars activities:

- Pollinator and plant adaptations
- Match Up! Pollinator to Plant
- Build the Perfect Plant

Pollinator cards can also be used in the field for identification.

Directions:

- 1) Print out on stiff, card stock
- 2) Cut into equal sizes
- 3) Use characteristics listed on each card to identify a match, or matches for plants and their pollinators.
- 4) For large classes, you may need to print out more than one set – particularly, multiples of the pollinators

Budburst.org
A citizen science project of
The Chicago Botanic Garden
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Native Bees

- 4,000 species in United States
 - Sizes: very small to large
 - Perform 90% of wild plant pollination; 30% of crops
 - Flower shape and color vary
 - Active throughout season
- Look for wings folded together.



Honeybees

- Body hairs & 'pockets' carry pollen to other flowers
 - Prefer blue or yellow flowers
 - Like a landing platform
 - Can see UV and nectar guides
- Honeybees are a non-native species introduced from Europe.



Beetles

- Good sense of smell
- Prefer rotting or fruity odor
- Like large, deep flowers and clusters of small flowers
- Prefer dull colors, white

Beetles were among the earliest pollinators 200 million years ago.



Moths

- Most active in evening, night
 - Prefer white or yellow flowers
 - Have long proboscis
 - Some moths hover; some need to land on the flower
 - Prefer a sweet odor
 - Tubular flowers
- Feathered antennae, hairy body.



Butterflies

- Have long, thin proboscis
- Active in daytime and sunlight
- Land on flowers to feed
- Like blue, purple, red, and yellow flowers.

Butterflies land on the blossoms to reach nectar sources. Photo: USFW



Bumblebees

- Large bees with furry bodies
- Prefer blue or yellow flowers
- Their 'buzz' vibration helps release pollen in some plants

Bumblebees, active in cool and warm weather, are active early in spring and late into autumn.



Hummingbirds

- Like bright colors: red, yellow
- Large flowers, tubular shape
- Hovers over the flower to feed
- Remembers and returns to good nectar producers

Pollen gathers on the head and beak of the birds while they feed. Photo: USFW



Wasps

- Minimal body hairs, so pollen is less likely to stick on
- Prefer high nectar producers
- Like a landing platform

Many look like bees. The easiest way to tell them apart: Wasps have very thin 'waists.'



Flies

- Prefer a rotten, putrid smell
- Prefer shallow flowers, or funnel-like; pale, dull colors
- Do not use nectar guides

Flies vary; some imitate bees. Look for large eyes and wings that are held out, not folded in.