



# Grow-Your-Own at Home!

## Week 4: Save the Pollinators

### LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson teaches about the various pollinators found in the garden, how pollination works, why pollinators are so important, and what we can do to protect them. the environment and ecological health.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

- Participants will be able to identify at least two common pollinators and two common garden insects.
- Participants will be able to describe why pollinators are important.
- Participants will be able to identify at least one plant that pollinators are attracted to in the garden.
- Participants will be able to describe ways in which we can protect our pollinators.

### VOCABULARY

**pollinators/pollination** - pollination occurs when pollen is moved within flowers or carried from flower to flower by pollinating animals such as birds, bees, bats, butterflies, moths, beetles, other animals, or the wind

**honeybee** - a honey-producing bee (genus *Apis* of the family *Apidae*); especially a European bee (*A. mellifera*) introduced worldwide and kept in hives for the honey it produces.

**heirloom** - a plant variety that has a history of being passed down within a family or community, similar to the generational sharing of heirloom jewelry or furniture. An heirloom variety must be open-pollinated, but not all open-pollinated plants are heirlooms.

**open pollination** - when pollination occurs by insect, bird, wind, humans, or other natural mechanisms, creating more genetically diverse plants that can adapt to local growing conditions and climate over time

**hybrids** - plant hybridization is a controlled method of pollination in which the pollen of two different species or varieties is crossed by human intervention to produce desired traits. Seeds from hybrid plants produce plants that are less vigorous and not true to type. Gardeners who use hybrid plant varieties must purchase new seed every year.

### QUESTIONS

- How does pollination happen?
- How many different pollinators can you name?
- Why is pollination important?
- How many favorite pollinator plants can you name?
- Name 3 things you can do to help pollinators.

### CALL TO ACTION

- Plant a pollinator arera in your garden—even just a few plants!
- Create a water source for your pollinators.
- Stop using synthetic pesticides & herbicides.
- Put up a mason bee house or bat house in your yard.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Learn more about pollinators at: Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org)
- Find safe pesticides at: Organic Materials Review Institute OMRI [www.omri.org](http://www.omri.org)

