



P.O.P.

Promote Our Pollinators

What are Pollinators?

Pollinators are animals that perform the process of pollination by carrying pollen from one flower to another. This makes it possible for seeds to be produced by the plant.



Why are Pollinators Important?

Pollinators are crucial to the creation of food and the sustainability of plants. Agricultural production is only possible because of pollinators; without them, many plants that generate food would not yield anything. "Pollinators are responsible for the reproduction of 90% of flowering plants and 75% of our crops" (Sustainable Development, 2016). They make it possible for plants to generate seeds, which leads to more flowers and, eventually, food for other organisms. Without pollinators, we would not have many of the foods or plants we enjoy today. Sadly, A UAA study has shown that, "many species may be vulnerable in the face of... alteration in plant communities and habitats (Pollinator Conservation, 2016). Reversing this trend is what P.O.P. is all about.

Why are Pollinator Numbers Declining?

Pollinator numbers have been declining for many reasons, and P.O.P. focuses on two of the most critical: habitat loss and pesticide use. Pollinators need places to live in order to survive, but with more and more land being used for cities or farming, their habitat is being destroyed. This kind of expansion is also detrimental to the number of flowers pollinators have access to. Pesticides are often used to increase agricultural production by preventing the destruction of crops by bugs, but these chemicals affect pests and pollinators alike. In California alone, more than one million colonies were killed by insecticide use, causing the population to drop by 10%. If bees come into contact with pesticide residue, it results in the whole colony being weakened and more susceptible to other diseases. These are some of the serious challenges pollinators face today, but here in Alaska, there are simple ways for us to prevent a similar fate.



How Can I Help?

Two easy ways to help our pollinators are to plant a pollinator garden and use natural pest control methods like ladybugs! These gardens provide places for pollinators to nest and flowers for them to eat and pollinate.



Why Pollinator Packs?

For pollinators to thrive, they require reliable food sources in easy to locate areas at frequent intervals. Pollinator packs are designed to address the needs of both pollinators and people; they are easy to assemble, simple to maintain, and highly attractive. P.O.P. participants merely need to plant their pollinator pack in a medium-sized pot and place it anywhere outside! Because of its portability and beauty, it is perfect for placing outside any office, business, restaurant, school, or home. Each pollinator pack's plants are Alaska hardy, and have been specially selected to attract a wide variety of pollinators, while creating a lovely floral display. Your pollinator pack includes the following flower varieties: Calendula, Aster, Salvia, Zinnia, Nasturtium, and Alyssum.

Instructions for Planting Your Personal Pollinator Pack!

- Find a medium-sized pot and fill it $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way full of soil.
- Carefully take the seedlings out of the pollinator pack and place them where you want them to grow.
- Gently fill in the spaces between the seedlings with soil, so they stand upright.
- Water your container well, and place it outside.
- Instead of using harmful chemicals to control pests, consider using natural alternatives like ladybugs.
- Enjoy the pollinators visiting your garden!



-Calendula

-20-24" Tall

-Consider planting in the back of the container.



-Aster

-24" Tall

-Consider planting in the back of the container.



-Salvia

-18" Tall

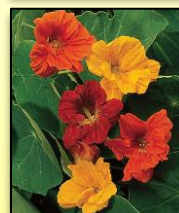
-Consider planting in the middle of the container.



-Zinnia

-12-18" Tall

-Consider planting in the middle of the container.



-Nasturtium

-12" Tall

-Consider planting in the front of the container.



-Alyssum

-4" Tall

-Consider planting in the front of the container.

References

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