

How To Plant a Pollinator Garden





Liberty is committed to preserving and protecting our environment,

and embraces the opportunity to serve as a steward for our planet's precious natural resources.

Pollinators are essential for helping to increase food production, increase biodiversity, and supporting the overall health of our ecosystems.

Over the past 20 years, pollinators such as monarch butterflies and honeybees have been experiencing drastic declines. By planting more nectar and pollen sources provided by flowering plants and trees, we can help improve their health and numbers.



In addition to creating a habitat for pollinators, pollinator gardens contribute to:

Water Conservation

Native, drought-tolerant, and heat-tolerant plants help conserve water in addition to attracting pollinators.

Water Quality

Gardens provide permeable surfaces so water is able to infiltrate the soil layer and be utilized by plants. It can also replenish our precious groundwater system rather than become run off that can pollute water sources.

Air Quality

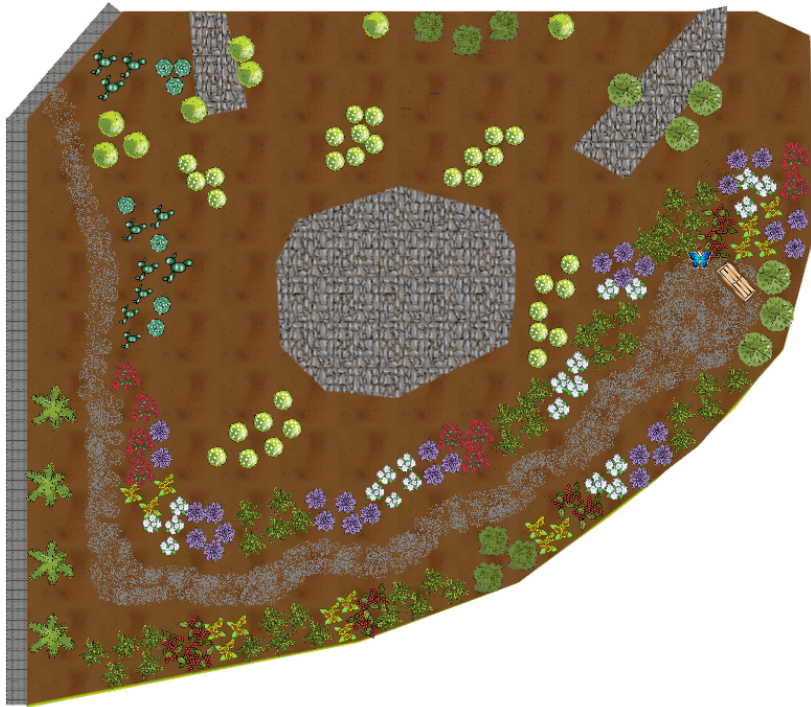
Plants are able to contain, store, and hold carbon through time, reducing the amount of carbon in the atmosphere.

Education








Pollinators are great education for all ages to better understand concepts like the role pollinators play in the environment and the relationship between the environment and us.

Since 2018, Liberty has been implementing pollinator protection projects as part of their corporate social responsibility. Now, we want to invite customers to participate as well by building their own pollinator gardens at home. In this booklet we have outlined the initial steps for creating a pollinator garden and highlighted a selection of pollinator friendly plants.





Key to Perennials

	Ironwood		Goodding's Verbena
	Desert Willow		Spreading Fleabane
	Willow Acacia		Lantana
	TX Mountain Laurel		Baja Fairy Duster
	Cacti Variety		Desert Marigold
	Desert Milkweed		Walking trail - ADA Compliant
	Blue Grama Grass		Rain Garden - Gravel
	Gregg's Mistflower		

Creating Your Own Pollinator Garden

You can design and plant your own pollinator garden in just a few steps:



Plan

Put all of your ideas down on paper and create an initial site plan for the amount of space that you have.

Plant Selection



Begin selecting plants and flowers that appeal to you, work well with your soil and lighting conditions, and attract pollinators.



Design

Create a conceptual drawing that addresses where you would like to place pathways and plants, considering the height, spread, and water needs of each plant.



Water

Incorporate a simple irrigation system - such as drip irrigation - to address your plant choices and garden configuration.



Plant

Plant your seeds or flowers. If planting flowers, dig holes big enough for the root systems, then cover and reinforce the roots with soil or compost. Add mulch to reduce weed growth.

Maintain



Water and weed the garden to keep it healthy.



Things to Keep in Mind

- Use native and drought tolerant plants. These plants are naturally low-water use and tolerant of climate conditions.
- Choose plants with different blooming seasons to keep flowers available year-round.
- Include types of plants with different sizes to provide shelter.
- Plant groupings of the same plant. These groupings are easier to spot from the air and are easier to go from plant to plant.
- Place flat stones to provide a space for butterflies to rest in the sun on.

Make Your Garden a Monarch Waystation

Your garden may be certified by Monarch Watch as a Monarch Waystation if it meets or exceeds the guidelines below:

- **Size**
No minimum area is required but a truly effective Monarch Waystation will be at least 100 square feet. This area may be split among different sites in your yard.
- **Exposure**
Butterflies and their plants need lots of sun so make sure your garden receives at least 6 hours of sun a day.
- **Drainage and Soil Type**
Milkweeds and nectar plants do well in light soils, good drainage is needed.
- **Shelter**
Plants should be close together but not too crowded.
- **Milkweed Plants**
Have at least 10 milkweed plants, made up of two or more species. Monarchs only lay eggs on milkweed so this is vital!
- **Nectar Plants**
Monarchs need nectar. Your garden should contain annual, biennial, or perennial plants that provide nectar.
- **Sustainable Management Practices**
Help take care of your garden and monarchs by doing some of the following: eliminate the use of insecticides, mulch around the base of plants, remove dead stalks, use natural compost for fertilization, and amend the soil.

For more information on how to certify your garden as a Monarch Waystation, visit monarchwatch.org/waystations.

Plant Types

Annual

A soft-stemmed plant that may have flowers, does not form woody branches and generally does not live for more than 2 years.

Groundcover

A low-growing plant or group of plants that can spread to cover a wide area in a garden.

Perennial

A soft-stemmed plant that may have flowers, does not form woody branches and generally lives for more than 2 years.

Shrub

A low, several-stemmed woody plant, which may have flowers. Shrubs form the foundation and structure of a water-wise garden.

