

# WILDFLOWER GARDEN

## NATIVE PLANTS FOUND HERE



A pollinator on wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*). *Monarda* is also a favorite of hummingbirds. Can you guess why?



Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) is important in the life cycle of monarch butterflies. Monarchs feed on the flower nectar and lay their eggs on the leaves. The larva are not affected by the poison they absorb from the leaves, but themselves become poisonous to potential predators.



Gray-headed coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*)



White beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)



Goldenrod (*Solidago*) has the Latin meaning "I make whole," referencing its medicinal qualities. How many goldenrod species can you find here?

There are at least 21 native wildflower species in this garden. How many can you find that are blooming right now? Do you see any pollinators in action?

Native plants are important because they have **aesthetic, recreational, biological, medicinal, economic and conservation value.**

## IT'S ALL ABOUT POLLINATION

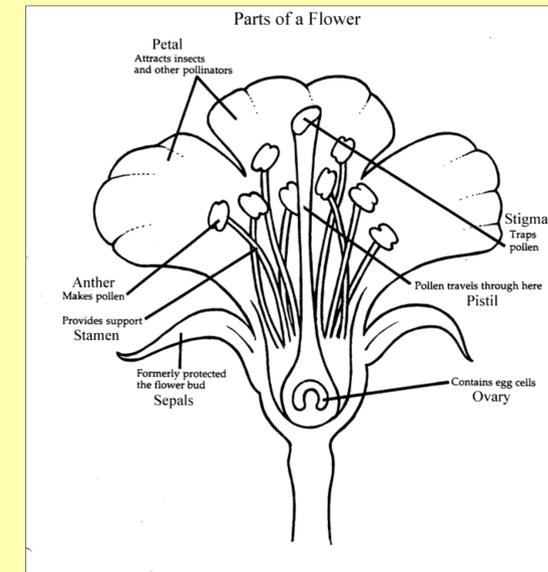
**How do flowering plants reproduce?** Pollination occurs when pollen is carried from flower to flower or is moved within flowers. The successful transfer of pollen in and between flowers of the same plant species leads to fertilization, successful seed development, and fruit production.

### How does it work?

80% of pollination is assisted by pollinators, including birds, bats, bees, butterflies, other insects and other animals. The remaining 20% of pollination occurs by wind or water.

### Think about it...

Why would pollinators visit flowers? What is their reward? As you look at the diagram at right and at the flowers in this garden, can you imagine what type of critter might visit each kind of flower?



## WHY IS POLLINATION IMPORTANT?

Pollinators are responsible for assisting over 80% of the world's flowering plants. Without them, humans and wildlife wouldn't have much to eat or look at! Some pollination facts:

- More than half of the world's diet of fats and oils come from animal-pollinated plants.
- More than 150 food crops in the U.S. depend on pollinators, including almost all fruit and grain crops.
- The USDA estimates that crops dependent on pollination are worth more than \$10 billion per year.

## NON-NATIVE PLANTS FOUND HERE

Some of the species growing in this Wildflower Garden are not native to this region. Non-native plants we are weeding out over time include:

- Daisies
- Thistle
- Queen Anne's Lace
- Hawkweed
- Timothy
- Clover
- Mullein
- St. Johnswort
- Sheep sorrel
- Lesser stitchwort
- Mullein
- Cow vetch
- European lupine

## WILD CHERVIL : A NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES

Have you noticed the plant all along Route 100 that looks like Queen Anne's lace? It's the non-native invasive wild chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) that is taking over local roadsides. While most non-native plants pose no problems, some are invasive and can crowd out native plants. Wild chervil can cause burns on your skin if you touch it and are exposed to sunlight.



Flowers of wild chervil.



Triangular, fern-like leaves of wild chervil.

