



Pollinators

This pollinator garden provides resting spots for migrating butterflies crossing between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. Over their long journey, butterflies look for refuge like this naturalized garden. Nectar from flowering plants provides food for adult butterflies; the leafy part provides a home for many species of butterflies to lay their eggs. The flower is the host (house) plant for the eggs and caterpillars. The caterpillars will feed here until adulthood.

Plants found in Niagara before European settlements are “native” to the region. Native plants have adapted over time to changing weather conditions, pests and diseases. With a diversity of native plants, this habitat will attract a variety of pollinators. Butterflies, birds, bees and other insects will pollinate the flowers as they move from plant to plant and are responsible for pollinating over 70 percent of our food crops; including fruits, vegetables and grains.

You can help pollinators by planting native wildflowers at your home. For best results, include nectar producing flowers for adults and host plants for eggs and caterpillars. Beautiful, and ideal for our local conditions, these plants provide essential habitat for butterflies and other pollinators.

You too, can create habitat for Monarch Butterflies by planting Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) and Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). The Monarch Butterfly only uses native milkweeds as their host plants.

Can you spot any pollinators visiting this naturalized garden?



Wild Bergamot



Swamp Milkweed



Butterfly Milkweed



Dense Blazingstar



Goldenrod



Common Milkweed

