

Pollinator gardens help wildlife and ecosystems. They combat the effects of habitat loss. Even small, backyard gardens can be beneficial. The most important feature is to have a wide diversity of plants that should be mainly native to our region.



CREATE YOUR
**POLLINATOR
GARDEN**

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Spring and fall are the best times to plant pollinator gardens. Transplants should be planted after the risk of frost in the spring or before the risk of freeze in the fall. Early April and October are ideal times. Fall is the best time to spread wildflower seeds.

STEP 1: PREPARE THE GARDEN FOR TRANSPLANTS AND WILDFLOWER SEED

- Choose a sunny location (8 hours of direct sun each day) that is approximately 10ft x 10ft.
- Verify that the soil drains well: a simple method to determine drainage is to dig a hole (8 in. wide by 2 ft. deep) and fill half with water. If the water does not drain in 30 minutes, then drainage is poor. Consider a raised bed if the drainage is poor.
- Remove all weeds and ground cover from the garden area.
- Add approximately 1 in. of well-aged compost across the garden bed, and shovel or till into the soil to approximately 1ft depth. Well-aged compost should be completely decayed, organic material that is dark and crumbly, resembling dirt.
- Rake the soil to have a smooth planting surface.
- Water the garden area thoroughly (i.e. set a sprinkler for 1 hour) and let dry for a day.

STEP 2: TRANSPLANTS

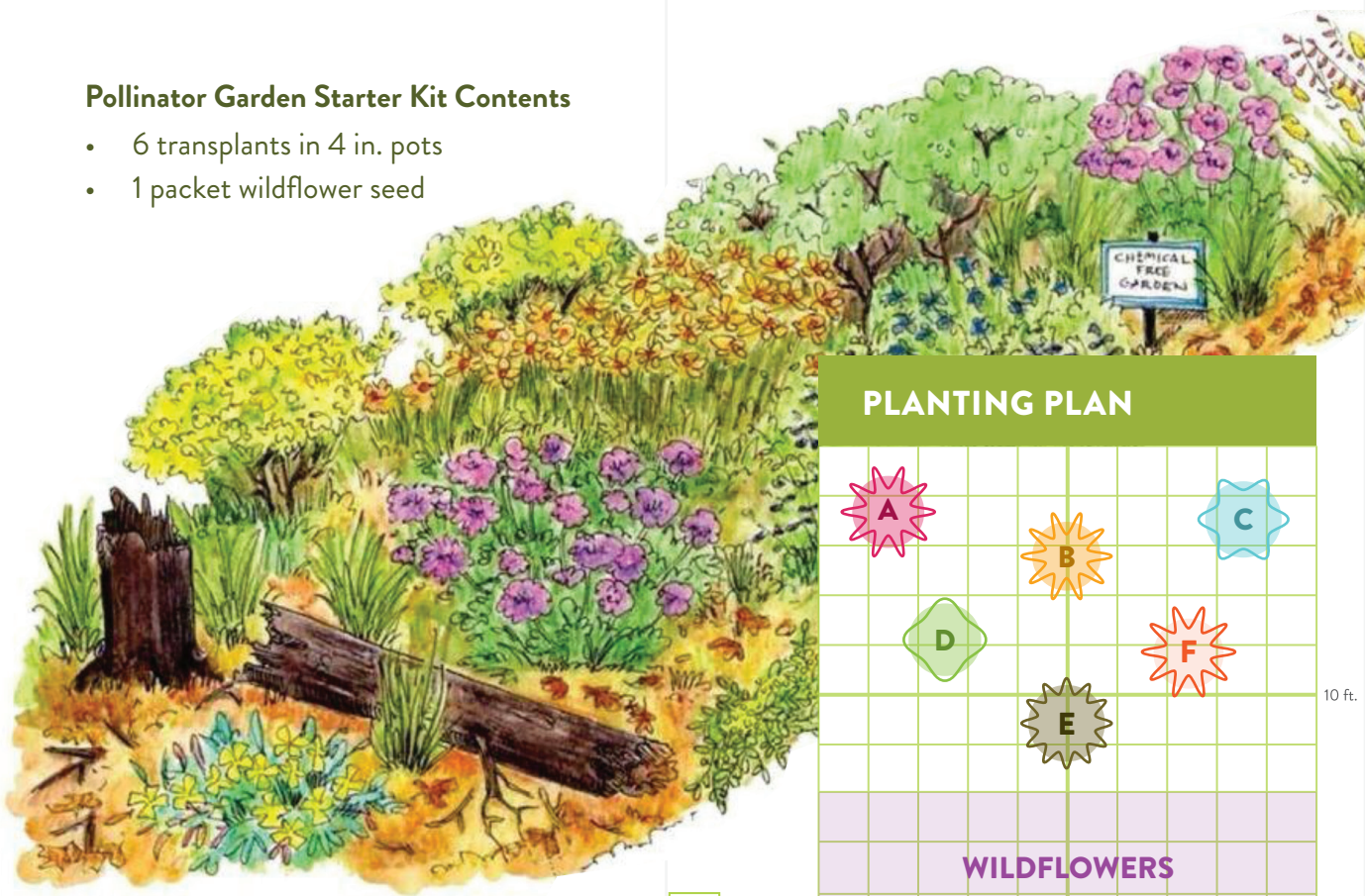
- Thoroughly water all plants in pots before planting.
- Place the plants in the garden area per the recommended spacing (see Plant List and Planting Plan).
- Dig a hole that is twice the width of the pot and the same depth as the height of the soil in the pot.
- Place the rootball into the hole and use the soil that was removed from the hole to backfill around the rootball. Pack the soil around the rootball firmly.
- Make a small ring around the plant with soil in order that water is caught and percolates down into the hole instead of running off.
- Thoroughly water-in the new plants.
- Water as needed for the first week to keep soil and root balls humid. Then let dry between watering.

STEP 3: WILDFLOWER SEED

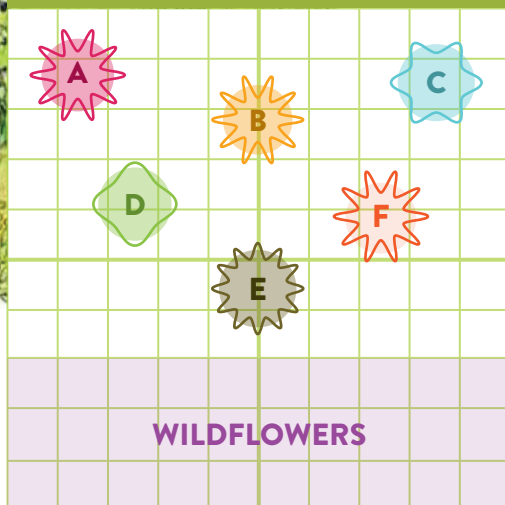
- After preparing the site, sprinkle the seed across a 10 x 3 ft area. It can be helpful to mix a small amount of sand with the seed before spreading (3 parts sand to 1 part seed).
- Lightly press the seed into the soil with your hands or feet or use a seed roller.
- Water the seed by gently soaking the area.
- Water as needed for the first month to keep the seedlings consistently moist.

Pollinator Garden Starter Kit Contents

- 6 transplants in 4 in. pots
- 1 packet wildflower seed



PLANTING PLAN



10 ft.

=1 ft.

10 ft.

PLANT LIST

CODE	COMMON ID	SCIENTIFIC ID	SPACING	BLOOMTIME	ATTRACTS
A	Flame Acanthus	<i>Anisacanthus quadrifidus</i> var. <i>wrightii</i>	3 – 4 ft	Summer – Fall	Butterflies, hummingbirds
B	Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	2 – 4 ft	Spring – Fall	Butterflies, hummingbirds and bees
C	Texas Lantana	<i>Lantana urticoides</i>	2 ft	Spring – Fall	Butterflies
D	Mealy Blue Sage	<i>Salvia farinacea</i>	2 – 4 ft	Spring – Fall	Bees, hummingbirds
E	Gregg's Mistflower	<i>Conoclinium greggii</i>	4 ft	Spring – Fall	Butterflies
F	Texas Milkweed	<i>Asclepias texana</i>	2 ft	Summer – Fall	Bees
WF	Texas Bluebonnet	<i>Lupinus texensis</i>	1 – 2 ft	Spring	Butterflies, bees
WF	Indian Blanket	<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	1 – 2 ft	Spring – Summer	Butterflies, bees
WF	Scarlet Sage	<i>Salvia coccinea</i>	1 – 2 ft	Spring – Fall	Butterflies, hummingbirds and bees
WF	Lemon Beebalm	<i>Monarda citriodora</i>	1 – 2 ft	Spring – Summer	Butterflies, hummingbirds and bees
WF	Engelmann's Daisy	<i>Engelmannia peristenia</i>	2 ft	Spring – Summer	Butterflies, bees

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED PLANTS FOR A SOUTH TEXAS POLLINATOR GARDEN

- **Mistflowers** such as Gregg's Mistflower and White Mistflower
- **Salvias** such as Mealy Blue Sage, Tropical Sage and Darcy's Mexican Sage
- **Milkweeds** such as Green Milkweed, Antelope Horns Milkweed, and Zizotes Milkweed
- **Fall blooming plants** such as Goldenrods, Autumn Sage, and Frostweed
- **Native annuals** such as Blanket Flowers and Cowpen Daisies.
- **Native shrubs** such as Bee-brush, Cenizo and Agarita.
- **Small flowering trees** such as Wafer Ash, Mexican Plum and Desert Willow.

Partnering with:



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TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL POLLINATOR GARDEN

Plant Native Plants.

Plant a wide diversity of native plants including, native Salvias, Gregg's Mistflower, Native Lantana, Purple Coneflower, Lemon Bee Balm, Goldenrod, Fall Aster, and Milkweeds.

- Include plants that bloom in various seasons to extend the bloom period from spring to fall.
- Include larval host plants—plants that caterpillars will eat; Milkweeds for monarch butterflies and members of the parsley family, such as Fennel, for swallowtail butterflies.

Create a habitat.

Include shelter areas and habitat for pupating butterflies and overwintering bees, butterflies, and moths. This could be dense shrubs, fences, trellises, decaying wood, leaves, grasses, and bare soil.

Avoid pesticides.

Do not use pesticides or herbicides and purchase plants that have been organically grown. Add a water source which could be as simple as damp or muddy spots in the garden.

Avoid modern hybrid plants.

Their blooms are often selected for attractiveness, and may not be a good source of nectar.

Embrace the 'winter look'.

Learn to love the 'winter look' of brown plant material and leaves. Prune and clean leaf litter in spring – pollinators overwinter in this material.