



Responsible Homeowner

Learning Outcomes

Families learn how to provide pollinators with valuable resources, and how to maintain a yard in a pollinator friendly manner.

Create a pollinator friendly habitat in your backyard. Manage your yard in a way that has less of a negative impact on pollinators.

Challenges

Mowing for Pollinators

- Mowing lawns often removes floral resources for pollinators such as clovers or dandelions. Through internet research and discussion with lawn care professionals, determine optimal lawn mowing heights in your area and why higher cuts can help pollinators. Submit a brief explanation of what you learned.
- **Learning Outcomes:** *Learn how to mow a yard without taking resources away from pollinators such as clovers that provide pollen and nectar.*

Pollinator Sanctuary

- When choosing flowers that provide resources for pollinators, it is important to consider native species that can survive in the region's climate. Research native flowering plants in your area and find where you can buy seeds. Plant them to create a pollinator garden/sanctuary in your backyard or in an area nearby. Remember that even a very small plot of flowers can be a valuable resource for pollinators. Submit a photo of your newly plants pollinator sanctuary as well as a list of the flower seeds that you planted. <http://indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org/plants> is an excellent source for this project.
- **Learning Outcomes:** *Homeowners learn how to provide resources for local pollinators and the importance of native flowers.*

Water the Pollinators

- Pollinators also need a source of clean water. Put a birdbath, or a container that can hold a shallow pool of fresh water near your new pollinator garden. On a sunny day, record the different types of insects that visit the water source. Submit a photo of the birdbath and a brief list of the insects you have observed using it. You can use a tally list with the categories Butterflies/Moths, Bees/Wasps/ Ants, Beetles, Flies, and Others.
- **Learning Outcomes:** *Learn how to provide pollinators with valuable resources such as water.*

Landscape Management

- It is important to understand how to construct and manage a residential landscape that is sustainable eco-friendly, and aesthetically pleasing. Complete the [Landscape Management virtual learning activity](#) and learn how to incorporate these landscaping principles in a way that will help conserve pollinators. Submit a screenshot of your best score and list 3 landscaping tips that you learned from the activity that will benefit pollinators.
- **Learning Outcomes:** *Learn how to manage a yard in a sustainable, eco-friendly, and aesthetically pleasing way.*