Did you know?

- Pollinators move pollen from flower to flower so plants can produce fruits and seeds.
  - Over 75% of all flowering plants are pollinated by insects and other animals.
- It’s estimated that 1 of every 3 mouthfuls you eat depend on insect pollination.
  - Flowers and pollinators depend on each other for survival.
  - Many plants cannot produce fruit or seeds unless they are pollinated.
- Most pollinators are insects like bees, wasps, butterflies, flies, ants, and beetles.
  - Hummingbirds and bats also pollinate plants.

What food do you eat that may not be as plentiful without pollinators? **No pollinator ...**

- No apples, cucumbers, zucchini, almonds, and strawberries.
- No lettuce, tomatoes, squash, cabbage, broccoli and blueberries.
- No vanilla, cranberries, coffee, grapes and cacao (chocolate) and many more!

**Pollinator Threats**

Changes in habitat (loss, fragmentation, degradation)

Disease, predation, and parasites
   - Improper pesticide and herbicide use

**How can you help?**

(https://www.pollinator.org/pollinators)

- Plant pollinator friendly gardens. (It doesn’t have to be a large space.)
  - Choose various plants that bloom from spring to fall.
- Plant each plant in groups of at least 3 because they are easier for pollinators to find.
- Remember there are no butterflies without caterpillars! They need food sources too.
  - Minimize your use of pesticides.
- Keep your garden area a little messy in the fall and winter so pollinators have a place to overwinter.

**4-H Project Resources**

Integrate a pollinator focus with your plant science or horticulture project.

**Monarchs on the Move 4-H Project.** (See Shop 4-H.)
**Planning a Pollinator Garden**
https://kidsgardening.org/resources/lesson-plans/planning-a-pollinator-garden/